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NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS

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ON THE ROAD WITH

THE STROKES

First report from this year's hottest tour

Radiohead: Men In Tights

Ballet antics from Thom and the boys

Jack White Vs The Von Bondies

The feud that's splitting Detroit

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Libertines at liberty

Pete's seven days of freedom

PLUS KAREN O IN A WHEELCHAIR HUNDRED REASONS' LIVE RETURN THE DARKNESS ON TOUR

THE KILLS ON EACH OTHER REM ALBUM - THE VERDICT AND DURAN DURAN (AKA THE OLD STROKES)

"When we was young oh man did we have fun"

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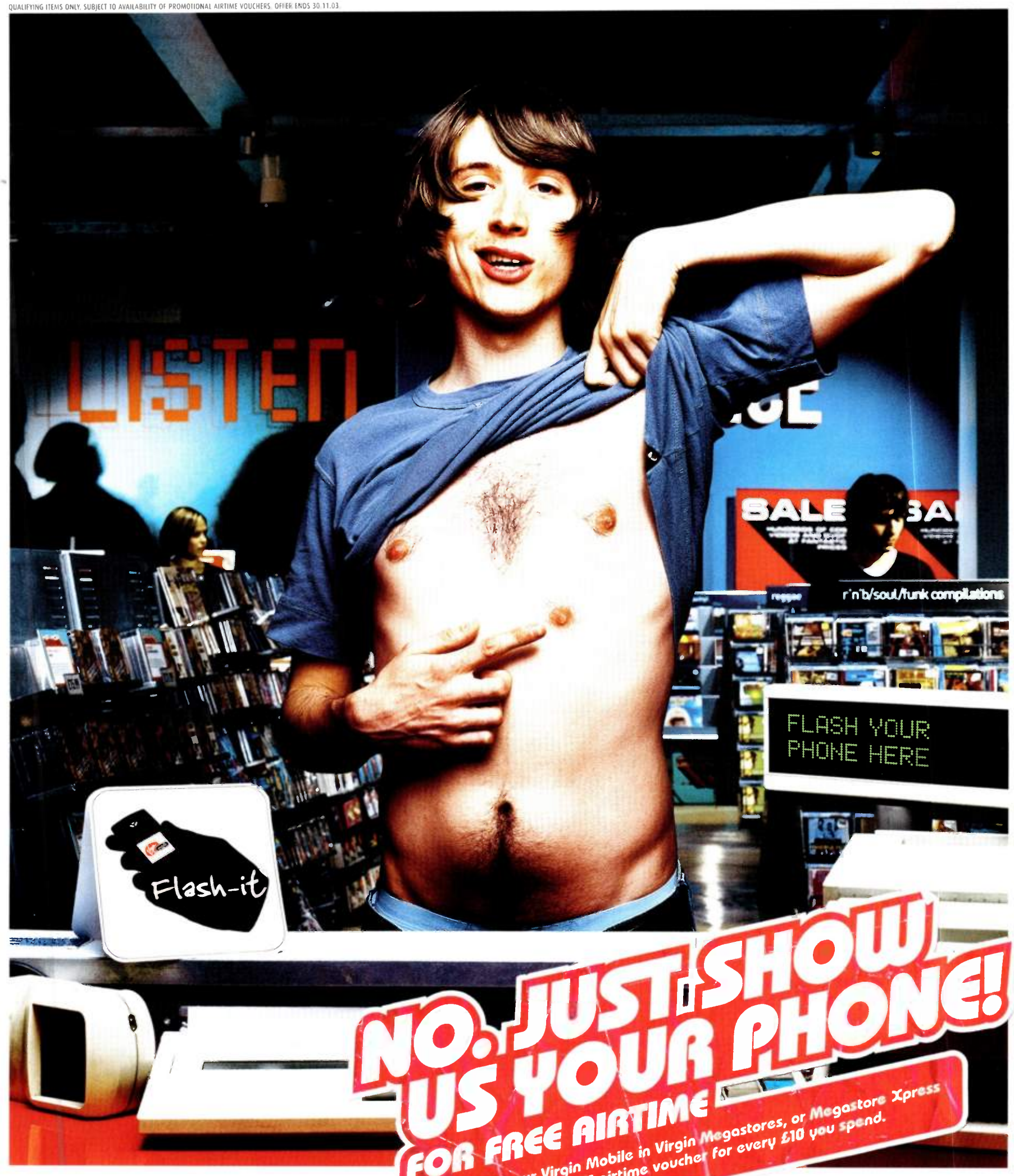

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WEEK 43
2003

New Musical Express
October 25 2003
The Strokes
Photograph: Dean Chalkley

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Follow the magenta and gold for web links

NEWS

EXPRESS MUSIC NEWS
NEWS EDITOR: JULIAN MARSHALL
Got a story? Phone 020 7261 7241 or email news@nme.com

THE BIG PICTURE

THE O MUST GO ON!

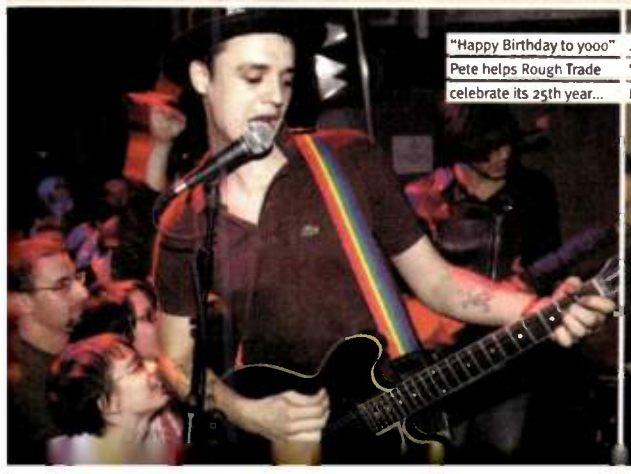
Battered and bruised, Yeah Yeah Yeahs singer Karen O is wheeled onstage at the Australian Livid festival in a wheelchair by boyfriend, Angus Andrew of Liars. Karen had spent the night before with an icepack on her head in a Sydney A&E ward after falling off the stage head-first. Note the bandaging on her elbow, which isn't part of her stage outfit. Seconds after this picture was taken, Karen sang 'Maps' and climbed out of the wheelchair to deafening applause. "We played the other night and I had a pretty bad fall," Karen said. "I had to go the emergency room and so... we're starting where we left off!" Andrew added: "Please be gentle on her. It's like she's been in a car accident. Would you want to play after that? I don't think so!"

BOB KING

Yeah yeah yikes! Liars' Angus Andrew pushes a bloodied but unbowed Karen O onstage

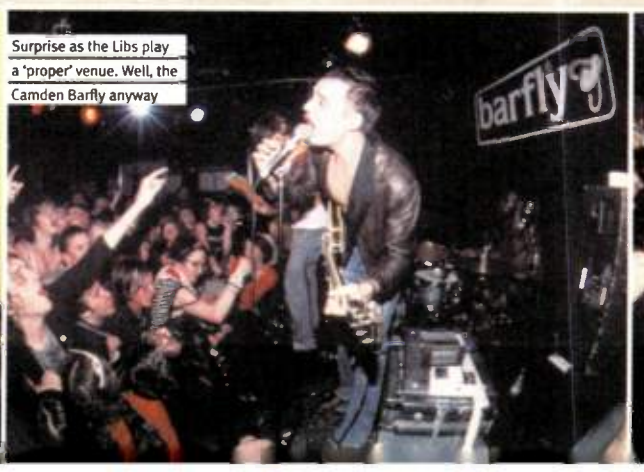
BOYS IN THE BANDSTAND

Carl and Pete Libertine's first week back together ended up with boating in Regent's Park, tons of gigs, and preparations for their second album

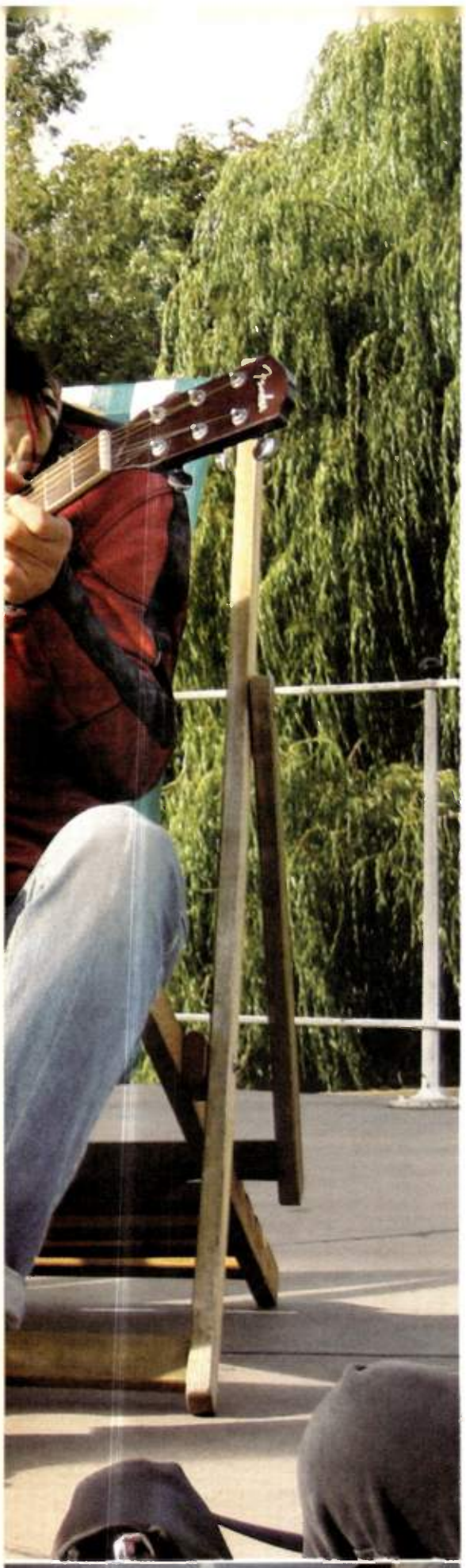


"Happy Birthday to yooo" Pete helps Rough Trade celebrate its 25th year...

... while Carl clashes with 'UpThe Bracket' producer Mick Jones



Surprise as the Libs play a 'proper' venue. Well, the Camden Barfly anyway



The good new days: Pete and Carl get back to basics down the local boozer

The Libertines celebrated being back together last week with a quiet afternoon boating in London's Regent's Park – and still managed to fit in a gig in the middle of a lake.

The outdoor show was one of a handful of impromptu gigs the band played around London in a week that saw **Carl Barât** and **Pete Doherty** working to get their friendship back on track.

In Regent's Park (October 13) Carl and Pete treated a handful of fans to an intimate set in the bandstand, including acoustic renditions of 'Death On The Stairs', 'What A Waster', 'Up The Bracket' and the Dame Vera Lynn's wartime standard 'We'll Meet Again'. They then talked *NME* into hiring boats for the entire crowd, to continue the gig on a nearby island.

The show was one of several low-key dates played since Pete got out of prison. Last Wednesday (October 15) the band were also the surprise guests at their label Rough Trade's 25th anniversary party.

"We didn't see each other for so long," Pete told *NME*, "it seems like we were never apart really in a way – we're carrying on as normal."

The Libertines plan to head off to France this week to continue writing the band's second album. Pete said: "The new songs have been influenced by the new Bandits album a little bit – there's a real shanty-esque one called 'Tomblands'."

"I call it 'Montmartre'," Carl replied. "You've only called it that because you've got a nice picture that says 'Tomblands' and you want to use it as a cover. We're going to Paris, to Montmartre, which will be the soundtrack to the new Libertines album. We've got buckets of songs. It's like we've got a nest full of hungry beaks and we got all these songs to feed them."

"THEY TRIED TO MAKE BOOZE OUT OF MARMITE"

Pete also told *NME* about his time inside Wandsworth Prison and the temptation of drug and alcohol abuse. He recently served one month for burgling Carl's flat while the band were touring in Japan.

He said: "With me being me in that situation there was temptation. Some fella said if I was up for it he could make a call to someone on the outside, and he'd get *(drugs)* to me by throwing it over the wall in the yard," he claimed. "But then a mate found out and phoned up the number and said: 'If you give him any drugs I'll kick your head.' It was for the best, because I came out clean."

Carl replied: "Clean as a whistle. That's why we're going to France, so I can keep an eye on him."

Since Pete's release, where he was greeted by Carl outside the gate, the pair have been seen in various local pubs – a welcome change from the alcohol substitute found inside the prison.

Pete said: "There were some lads in prison that tried to make alcohol out of Marmite – it was strong actually, 98 per cent proof."

"Proof that it didn't work," Carl joked.

Pete added: "But there were certain things that we had to avoid talking about *(with other inmates)* because we knew that we were going to fall out. Completely contrasting opinions on important matters. It's all worked out now though."

Over the weekend the Libs played two more secret shows. The first, last Friday (October 17) at the London Camden Barfly saw Pete and Carl end the set by stagediving together into a packed audience, while the following night the pair performed together at the tiny Duke Of Clarence pub in north London without drummer **Gary Powell**. In true Libs' fashion they got through five songs before the power was cut and the gig came to an end.

As well as Pete rejoining the band, The Libertines have parted company with their long-time manager and have teamed up with Poptones boss **Alan McGee**'s Creation Management team.

"It seems like we were never apart really - we're carrying on as normal"
Pete Doherty

WRH

NEWS ZIPS

● **Prodigy's** long-awaited new album will be released next spring, according to **Liam Howlett**. The LP will be the long-awaited follow-up to 1997's 'The Fat Of The Land'. In a statement issued to the US press, Liam said: "Recording of the album started about four months ago. Intentions are to deliver the new album shortly after the new year. Single release will precede a spring/summer album release date." The record has a working title of 'Always Outnumbered, Never Outgunned'.

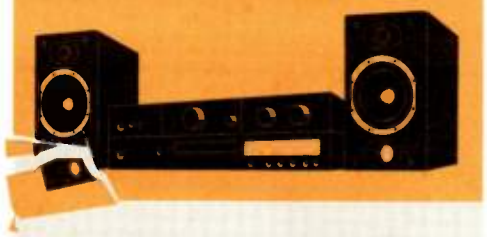
● **REM** played their smallest British gig in years last week (October 16) to only a few hundred people at the London Bush Hall. The band played a ten-song set at the 250-capacity venue in the afternoon, drawing on songs from their long career. During the gig, singer **Michael Stipe** joked about the early start, saying he was still in his pyjamas. He also treated the crowd to a quick burst of Nelly's 'Hot In Herre'. The band have played similar sized venues in the past. In 1991 the group played under the name **Bingo Hand Job** at the tiny London Borderline venue.

● **Franz Ferdinand's Nick McCarthy** diced with death after being attacked by a mystery gunman. Nick was reading a book in a park in Cardiff on October 11 when he was approached by the armed maniac. He told *NME*: "He suddenly pulled a gun out of his inside pocket and he was making these funny grunting noises. It was like a horror film. I thought he was a total freak. I was running around the park trying to get away from this madman. I didn't call the police, I just went back to the venue and played the gig. I was really freaked out."

● **The Darkness** pulled a show at the eleventh hour in Liverpool after singer **Justin Hawkins** came down with a throat infection. The gig at the Liverpool Academy on Saturday (October 18) was postponed just minutes before the band were due to go onstage to play to 2,000 fans. According to the *Liverpool Daily Post* newspaper, support band **Three Inches Of Blood** had already made their appearance and fans had waited over an hour before the announcement was made.

WHAT'S ON THE NME STEREO?

The sounds that are currently rocking our world



OUTKAST
SPEAKERBOXX/THE LOVE BELOW BMG
God, war, sex and *Fiddler On The Roof*. Two of this year's best hip-hop records in one box. Kings Of Leon like it too.

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE
HEADFIRST FOR HALOS 20-20 RECORDINGS
As heartwrenching as AFI, as infectious as Green Day and as sharp as The Smiths. Extremorrissey anyone?

ENGINEERS
HOME DEMO
The Manc music scene has been shit for so long, it was only a matter of time 'til the city threw up something amazing. And it has with Engineers' atmospheric debut.

GRAND NATIONAL
PEANUT DREAM SUNDAY BEST
Like slinky disco Elbow, but without the brandy and charity shop suits and, er, better than this sounds written down.

ARCHIE BRONSON OUTFIT
HERE HE COMES DOMINO
Top-notch desert blues combo from London. Song title 'Blue Faced Butcher' alone augurs well for future greatness.

THE VEXERS
GANGLAND BALLADS AND THE DEATH SEX SET (LP) ACE FU
Skrink skronk skreetch! Girl-fronted LA jerk-punk oddballs The Vexers' first proper UK release gets our juices flowing.

GONGA
GONGA (LP) INVADA
Referencing everything from Blue Cheer to Black Sabbath, these Bristol stoner dudes rock like bastards.

DAVID BOWIE
HELDEN EMI
Achtung! It's 'Heroes'! In German! From a four-CD box set spanning Herr Bowie's colourful career.

WHAT'S ON AVRIL LAVIGNE'S STEREO?

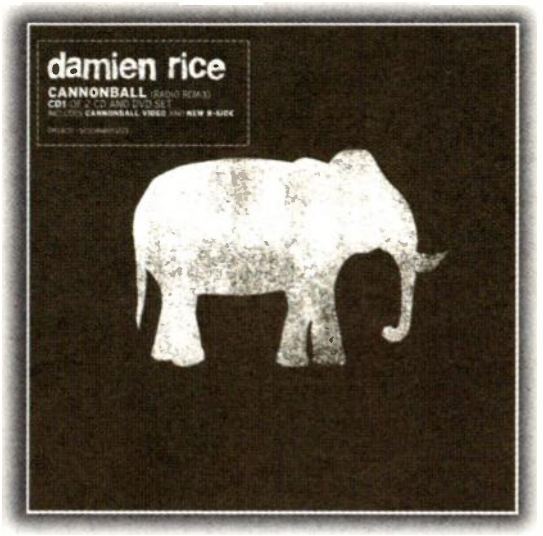
DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL
A MARK, A MISSION, A BRAND, A SCAR (LP)

"I've hired a car recently and have been driving around to the sound of the new Dashboard Confessional album, which I think is really great. I've also been listening to loads of the OutKast LP which is just mad but there are some great tracks on it. I like Jet, too."

The *NME* Stereo has been provided by some very nice people at B&W and Rotel. *NME* uses: B&W DM601 S3 speakers, Rotel RCD-02 CD player and RC-03 amplifier.

ROGER SARGENT/KEVIN WESTENBERG

new singles

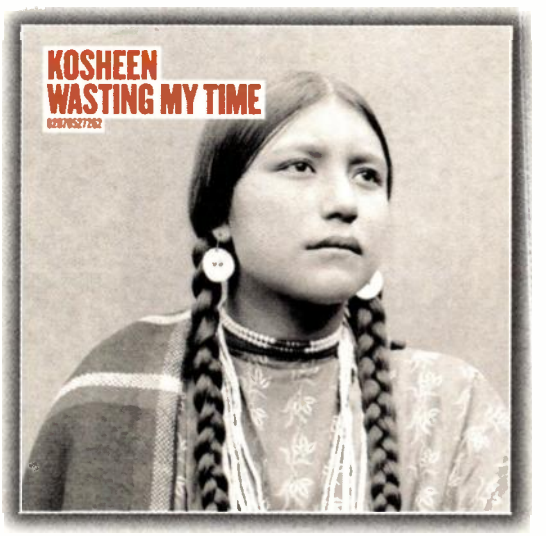


Damien Rice - Cannonball

First full UK single release the from Dublin born troubadour which looks set to turn him into a household name. Available on 2xCD and DVD, with CD1 featuring the new B-side Moody Mooday, video and poster, CD2 has the live tracks Amie and Blower's Daughter and four artwork postcards, whilst the DVD has an exclusive interview. "Mesmerising." Q Magazine

CD1&2 £1.99 Each DVD £1.99

Released 20th October



Kosheen - Wasting My Time

Second single to be taken from Kosheen's new album Kokopelli. Available on 2xCD and 12". CD1 and 12" include remixes by Decoder & Substance, Jacknife Lee and West London Deep, whilst CD2 features the acoustic live version, the video and the previously unreleased track Pleasure.

CD1&2 £1.99 Each 12" £1.99

Released 20th October

Dave Gahan - Bottle Living

Superb new release featuring the two standout tracks from the Depeche Mode frontman's self penned solo album. Bottle Living is a stomping ode to the perils of the booze, while Hold On is a more ballad like affair. The single also features excellent remixes and a great video.

CD1&2 £1.99 Each DVD £2.99

Released 27th October

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JANE'S PLAN FLASHMOB GIGS

Perry Farrell wants to do instant shows coordinated by text message

Watch out! There's a flasher about: Perry Farrell

Jane's Addiction are planning a series of unique gigs inspired by the notorious Flashmob phenomenon, and one of them will be in the UK.

Flashmobs are groups of who people gather unexpectedly at a location at a specific time, staging stunts and protests. The time and place is relayed by a single text message.

Now, Jane's Addiction singer and activist **Perry Farrell** plans to use Flashmob for his own ends. Fans who register their mobile phone number through the band's official website *www.janesaddiction.com* could get priority access to some exclusive small-scale gigs and parties.

Farrell has already used text messaging in the US with interactive 'Lollatron' boards at this summer's Lollapolooza festival. Seeing the potential in the Flashmob phenomenon, he's taking the idea to the heart of Jane's Addiction.

"There's two things you can do with it," Farrell told *NME*. "You can have an instant protest and you can have an instant art project – we like to combine the two. Jane's will either perform outside or we'll have an instant reality. I'm really into the whole idea of sayings and slogans."

> **"You can have an instant protest and you can have an instant art project - we like to combine the two"**
> Perry Farrell

After a series of "trippy parties" at Lollapolooza, and a new-year show in Los Angeles, Jane's are now planning to bring the Flashmob, and its peculiar ways, to the UK.

"We invite people to dress in what I call 'riot chic', which is like a combination of riot gear with S&M, because I feel like the world's in bondage. It also speaks volumes when people see the people that are down there. They'll wear these icons and logos and things, and it might say 'SPOIL' but the 'OIL's in red. You'll drive away thinking, 'I don't know what the hell that was, but I think I wanna pull over.'"

ROCK COMMANDMENTS

NME unearths the essential lessons from the vaults of our enormous rock archive

No. 288 Don't take more than four-and-a-half years between records

People used to love waiting for records to come out. Decades they would wait, for wax shortages to end or for Elvis to get back from the army. Yet science has proved that the sell-by date for a band now is exactly four-and-a-half years. This is the length of time a band can leave between records for that album not to be shit.

People used to talk about Elastica being as big as Blondie. Elastica, though, didn't care, spent five years washing their hair and didn't get why 2000's 'The Menace' sucked.

So when news reached us this week that Prodigy are to release their fourth album, 'Always Outnumbered, Never Outgunned' next year, we were worried. 'The Fat Of The Land' 'dropped' way back in 1997 - leaving a full seven years for the world to have changed.

The only way out of this is for them to split acrimoniously under a mountain of drugs and come back with a record that's better than half their original ones - 'The Jane's Addiction Plan' Considering Perry Farrell and Dave Navarro are gods of west-coast Bohemia, while members of the Prodigy have only married an Appleton in seven years, you wonder how far blind faith can stretch.

Dan Martin

Justine Frischmann: "Stick your album, I'm washing my hair!"

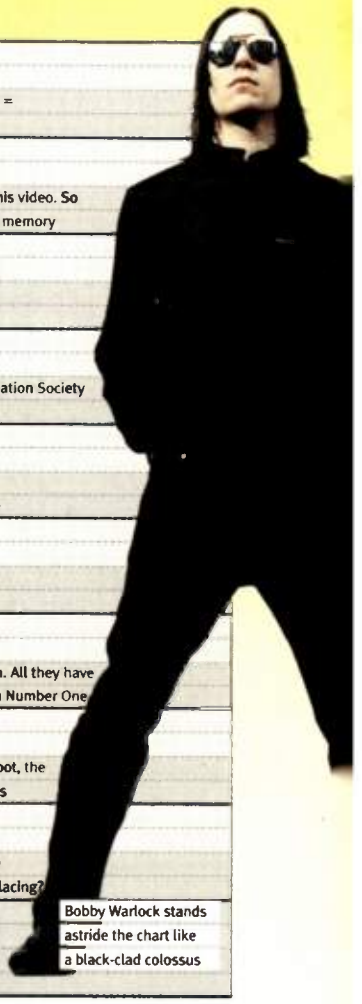
ROB WATKINS/CARA BLOCH/PERQUIRC.COM

The NME Chart Show on MTV2

Broadcast on MTV2 every day at 7pm, hosted by Zane Lowe

Wow, a first has been achieved. Yes, it's the first **Darkness**-free week in the *NME* Top Ten, with a slew of exciting new releases shunting the band they're calling the Suffolk Queen out of the chart. Top of the tree is **Radiohead**'s unofficial MTV footage to accompany '2+2=5', but with next week seeing the release of **The White Stripes**' 'The Hardest Button To Button', can the Oxford boys hang on to the Number One slot for long?

POSITION	POSITION LAST WEEK	ARTIST/ SONG/ LABEL
1	-	**RADIOHEAD** 2+2=5 PARLOPHONE Special exclusive live footage of Oxford laughing boys = big hit with the voting public
2	1	**THE STROKES** 12:51 ROUGH TRADE We'd forgotten all about early-'80s FX fest *Tron* until this video. So thanks Strokes for jumpstarting our collective cultural memory
3	-	**THE COOPER TEMPLE CLAUSE** BLIND PILOTS MORNING Blind pilots? What a rubbish – if not dangerous – idea. we're not travelling CoopersAir anytime soon.
4	7	**RAZORLIGHT** RIP IT UP VERTIGO Up three from last week, proof that the Borrell Appreciation Society have been out to vote in force
5	4	**THE DISTILLERS** DRAIN THE BLOOD SIRE A slight slip for Brody and The Distillers lads, but watch out for imminent UK dates and a new single
6	-	**HUNDRED REASONS** THE GREAT TEST EPIC Much hotrod-centric aceness from Aldershot quintet
7	10	**BRITISH SEA POWER** REMEMBER ME ROUGH TRADE Up three for BSP and their War Memorial extravaganza. All they have to do is hang on until Armstice Day and ly they'll reach Number One
8	1	**BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB** WE'RE ALL IN LOVE VIRGIN Ouch! That's gotta hurt! After a brief week at the top spot, the Black Rebel boys crash down a disastrous seven places
9	9	**FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND** SHE DROVE ME TO DAYTIME TELEVISION INFECTIOUS A non-mover for the Welsh extremo mainstays. They're currently on tour, though could that affect their chart placing?
10	-	**THE WARLOCKS** BABY BLUE MUTE Heavy-lidded fun from Bobby Warlock and his hairsprayed drug-droogs



Bobby Warlock stands astride the chart like a black-clad colossus

BEHIND THE VIDEO

HUNDRED REASONS 'THE GREAT TEST'

Director: Barney Clay at Satan's Slave

"It starts with the band being kidnapped by a mad scientist. He's hooked them up to a machine which produces their alter egos. They tear around the Wild West after the band until Colin throws a giant bowling ball which chases them off the edge of the cliff! We took it into the record company and they were like, 'What's this?' We had to convince them of the final vision!"

TO GET VOTING, LOG ON TO THE TWO SPECIALLY DESIGNED MICROSITES AT www.nmechart.com OR www.mtv2europe.com/nmechart

FREE SINGLE

WITH NEXT WEEK'S NME

The Stands are the latest band to give away a single with NME – and it's yours next week!

Following the success of our free Cooper Temple Clause and Radio 4 singles, *NME* is giving you the chance to claim an exclusive free CD from **The Stands**. All you have to do is buy next week's issue.

Featuring the tracks 'Outside Your Door' and 'The Love You Give', the CD follows the release of the Scouse retro-rockers' second single 'I Need You' last week (October 13). Their debut album is out on February 2 next year.

The Stands have built up a loyal fanbase, including none other than **Noel Gallagher**. The **Oasis** guitarist heard the band during a visit to Liverpool's Bandwagon club and offered them time in his Buckingham studio.

Singer **Howie Payne** said: "Noel's brilliant. He's a great lad, I love him. He just sat in the corner going, 'That sounds great.' He actually phoned me up before we went into his studio and said to me, 'I don't care where you do it, I just want to be there when it happens.'"

For the full details of how to claim this exclusive CD, get *NME* next week – on sale October 21 in London and October 22 nationwide.

KID BALLET!

Radiohead and Sigur Rós make up dancers' soundtrack as they go along

"What does this button do?": Radiohead make it up as they go along in New York

Thom grinned up at the crowd and danced while twiddling knobs

Radiohead and **Sigur Rós** performed an improvised gig to soundtrack a ballet in New York last week.

The event, *Split Sides*, took place at the Brooklyn Academy Of Music (October 14) for the legendary Merce Cunningham Dance Company, as the finale of the company's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The bands provided live music to accompany the dancers in two 20-minute pieces. All of the show's elements – including the order that the bands played and the order of the dancers' choreographed routines – were chosen by random rolls of dice on the night of the performance. There were also two possible backdrops, by photographers Catherine Yass and Robert Heishman, two sets of costumes (one black and white, one colour), and two light plots.

Choreographer Merce Cunningham's idea was to make the music and the dance independent, so the dancers learned their routines in silence. Sigur Rós had seen the choreography only once and Radiohead had't seen the dancers perform at all.

The bands took different approaches to the challenge. As the dice decreed, Radiohead played first from laptops, keyboards and mixing desks they had set up in the orchestra pit. Thom grinned up at the crowd and danced while twiddling knobs and humming into a microphone. The band used snippets of what sounded like the narration to a documentary about religious feasts, radio static and ambient noises to build a wall of shuddering, disjointed sound. Closer to 'Kid A' than any other Radiohead material, the performance was unlike anything they've ever done, as they were essentially making it up as they went along.

It didn't correspond at all to the movements of the dancers, which made the effect even more intense and unsettling.

Sigur Rós devised their own instruments for their piece, which had a much prettier and more meditative tone than Radiohead's. The instruments included a glockenspiel played with a cello bow, and two music boxes which they'd customised with masking tape so that they could set their own notes on a loop. Their most ingenious invention was a collection of eight ballet shoes, which were each wired with microphones and placed on parallel prongs. The band then rubbed and scratched them to make ambient sounds. The two bands performed live only on the opening night – the performance was to continue until October 18 with taped replays.

Sigur Rós with dance legend Merce Cunningham

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MAGNIFICENT RECORDS

the BellRays
THE RED, WHITE & BLACK
ALBUM OUT 27th OCTOBER
includes 6 free downloads
'A potent threat to the internal security of rock n' roll' 'genuinely revolutionary' - NME
'Riffs that could kick start a 60's muscle car' The BellRays have balls' Kerrang KKKKK
'A boisterous thrill ride of rock n' roll fuelled, gutter soul' - Logo magazine

repairman
AS SEEN ON TOUR WITH ATHLETE
The new single - Here Are We Now - out 20th Oct

BURN IT Stellastarr*

New York new wavers Shawn Christensen and guitarist Michael Jurin's top picks

THE BOYS NEXT DOOR SHIVERS

Michael: "Nick Cave's band even before The Birthday Party. Ever since I saw *Dogs In Space* I've loved this song."
www.bad-seed.org/cave/faq/biography.shtml

THE RAVEONETTES THAT GREAT LOVE SOUND

Michael: "This band knows the drive of three-chord pop songs, the beauty of feedback, and how to wail on a floor tom to bring it home. They match the sound of '60s pop songs with pure noise and teen rebel movies."
www.theraveonettes.com

KRAFTWERK THE ROBOTS

Michael: "In the future these guys are going to be the Barry Whites of robot sex. I recommend listening to this while driving in the city, through as many neon lights as you can find."
www.kraftwerk.com

BUILT TO SPILL CAR

Shawn: "I'm a sucker for lyrics about being young and completely confused, yet utterly fascinated. I wish I felt the way this song sounds, forever."
www.builttospill.com

THE ZOMBIES SHE'S NOT THERE

Shawn: "No band has ever come close to the sound these brilliant bastards came up with. It could have been any of their songs, but this was their first child."
http://members.aol.com/bocad/zom.htm

DAVID BOWIE FIVE YEARS

Shawn: "Only Bowie could open an album (*'The Rise & Fall Of Ziggy Stardust And The Spiders From Mars'*) with a track about the end of the world, and then proceed to conquer it. The high-pitched strings at the end are utterly spooky."
www.davidbowie.com

THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN KILL SURF CITY

Michael: "This is surf rock taken too far. Surf rock taken down to the drunken alleyways and then played through a blown amp with the reverb cranked. This is surf rock gone brilliantly wrong."
www.creation-records.com/marychain.html

THE FAINT TAKE ME TO THE HOSPITAL

Michael: "A song about horrible accidents with enough seductive groove to make JG Ballard blush. Basically this band sounds like Soft Cell worked up into a sexual frenzy."
www.thefaint.com

BRIGHT EYES A PERFECT SONNET

Michael: "This kid knows the rule of thumb for songwriting: honesty will floor people. I agree with your ways of thinking, Mr Eyes."
www.saddle-creek.com

VAN MORRISON I'LL BE YOUR LOVER, TOO

Shawn: "An unabashed love song. I'm not sure how this honesty would fly today, but why hide behind metaphors when you're singing to someone who seems to be directly in front of you?"
www.van-morrison.com

BOB DYLAN POSITIVELY 4TH STREET

Shawn: "This song is pretty evil. But there isn't a person on Earth who hasn't felt this way about an ex-friend. Best fuck-you lyric ever: *'I wish that for just one day you could stand inside my shoes/You'd know what a drag it is to see you'*."
www.bobdylan.com

Stellastar*'s Mike (far left) and Shawn (far right): now that's what we call new wave

NEWS ZIPS

Ozzy Osbourne has pulled his European tour due to ongoing treatment for a nervous tremor. Doctors have ruled out Parkinson's disease as the cause of the shakes.

Ash are living in **Julia Roberts' old LA** home while recording their new album. Speaking to *NME*, singer **Tim Wheeler** said the album will be out next year. He said: "Everything sounds louder. We grew up on heavy metal stuff before Nirvana and ever since we never wanted it to be too rock, but *(now)* the whole rock thing is coming out of us more." Song titles include 'Orpheus', 'Meltdown', 'Evil Eye', 'Solace', 'Renegade Cavalcade', 'Star-Crossed', 'I Won't Be Saved' and 'Clones'.

Hot Hot Heat have confirmed details of a new single and UK tour. The Canadians release 'Talk To Me, Dance With Me'/'Oh, Goddamnit' on November 3, the latest single from their album, 'Make Up The Breakdown'. Before that, they head out on their biggest UK tour to date, with support from **Franz Ferdinand** and **The Fiery Furnaces**.

The Mars Volta have added a second London date to their UK tour after the first gig sold out. The tour now calls at Glasgow QMU (November 19), Manchester University (20), Nottingham Rock City (22) and London Astoria (23-24).

Grandaddy are to release a limited edition version of their album 'Sumday'. The new version, out on October 27, will feature a bonus CD featuring six tracks recorded at this year's Glastonbury, as well as three French radio session tracks.

VON BONDIES DENY WHITE STRIPES RIFT

Feud has been "blown out of proportion", says frontman of band labelled "sore thumb" by Jack White

The Von Bondies have denied there is any major feud between them and **The White Stripes**, despite **Jack White** claiming in *NME* they had "lost their minds".

Singer **Jason Stollsteimer** told *NME*: "Things have gotten blown out of proportion. *(White)* was at our Coachella show right in the middle row. That was just a few months ago."

He added: "It's not like we go over to each other's houses and watch movies and eat popcorn together. With any of these people it's a respect thing. It's not out of the ordinary for any of *(the Detroit)* bands not to talk to anyone for a long time."

But Stollsteimer and friends used to go over to Jack White's house quite a lot. It was there he and his band rehearsed tracks for their debut album 'Lack Of Communication', co-produced by White.

"Detroit is such a great family and *(The Von Bondies)* are kind of a sore thumb." Jack said last month. "I don't speak to them. When you get burned constantly, there's no point in forgiveness any more."

The VBs have spent a large proportion of the last year in San Francisco recording their new LP 'Pawn Shoppe Heart'. They also signed a deal with major label Warners.

While Stollsteimer has obviously upset White, he's keen to stress his admiration for another of Detroit's famous sons – **Ben Swank** of the **Soledad Brothers**. There's a song on the new album named after the drummer.

"When we play it and he happens to be at the show, he's the one that shouts loudest to hear it," said Stollsteimer. "He's one of the coolest guys around. He's a class act."

'Pawn Shoppe Heart' is released early next year. The Von Bondies play two shows at London's 100 Club on November 4 and 7.

The Von Bondies: eating popcorn with Jack White is not on their social agenda

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PETER ROBINSON VERSUS GUY GARVEY

Guy smokes his 37th cigarette of the morning (he's cutting down, you see)

If the Elbow frontman wasn't in a band, he'd like to be a game show host. Watch out Barrymore!

Hello, Guy. Is there anything you'd like to talk about?

"Not really."

Excellent. Your middle names are Edward, John and Patrick. Do you feel shortchanged that your parents didn't go for the full alliterative run of Gs?

"Hmm. Guy Gary Gregory Gavin Garvey might have been a bit better. If you're going to start something, you have to finish it. My name's always confused me a bit – I sound like a game show host."

Maybe that's something for the future.

"Well, you never know. Obviously Michael Barrymore's out of favour because of people floating around in his swimming pool, so I might take over his programme. It will be called *Guy Garvey's My Kinda People*, and I'll go round Bury interchange and patronise old ladies."

You grew up with five older sisters – did they dress you as a girl?

"Yes. I was like their doll. I'd have to wear all their clothes – sweaters that came down to my knees, massive Bermuda shorts, and sandals and socks."

Would I be right in thinking that this would also have been the era of the snood?

"You're dead right. Snoods and boob tubes, they'd have me in all sorts. Denim waistcoats, loon pants..."

These days, how would we copy your distinctive style, in a *Heat* magazine 'get the look' sort of way?

"An interesting proposition. What's the budget?"

Well, what's your budget?

"Well, I regularly achieve my look for £50."

OK, let's do it for £25.

"Right. Well, you want to be going to a charity shop. And you want to pick out a suit. Sleep in it for a few days. Next, get a crisp, white, non-iron Marks And Spencer shirt. You can get a packet of two for about 15 quid. Don't shave – that's free. Finally, buy yourself a bottle of brandy and 40 cigarettes and plough through them in an hour. Hey presto – you've got my look."

Do you wish you could do your beard like Craig David's?

"His beard's RUBBISH! And Noel Edmonds' beard was RUBBISH as well. Kings Of Leon's beards are too tidy, too – they look like Open University lecturers. But younger. They'll be regretting *that* look in a few years. I do get a lot of flak for the beard. I did a concert in Rome recently and some guy went, 'Hey! It's George Michael!'"

Why did you ditch the 'Yes, Love' album title?

"It was wonderfully retro and a great homage to two great bands, but the rest of the band wouldn't let me use it."

You should have sacked them.

"Well, if I could, I would. If it was up to me I'd be touring the country with a karaoke machine. This band democracy thing is fucking rubbish."

"If it was up to me I'd be touring the country with a karaoke machine"

If you had a remote controlled Julian Casablancas, what would you make it do?

"I'd probably send it round my mate Becky's house and make it have sex with her. She's very keen on him. I'd insert a couple of solenoids in the groin area."

Solenoids?

"They force a piston out of a socket."

If there are five rungs on the ladder of fame, which there may or may not be, which one is Elbow on?

"Ooh... I reckon we're on rung three."

Three? Isn't it more like two?

"OK then, two. Getting up to three is going to be easy – it'll just be a load of smoke and mirrors, just like how we got to rung two."

When we had your album on in the office, the workrate dropped. Will you be offering compensation to IPC Media?

"No. No, probably not. Well, maybe if you put us on the cover."

Any other business?

"Yes. It's come to my attention that Elbow have got a reputation for being heavy drinkers. Can you confirm or deny these reports?"

Well, you did just say that in order to get your look I'd need to down a bottle of brandy...

"Well. Yeah."

Well then.

"But other bands drink too, don't they? We can't drink that much more than they do, surely."

Where's the best place you've ever been sick?

"Into my T-shirt, in the back of a taxi."

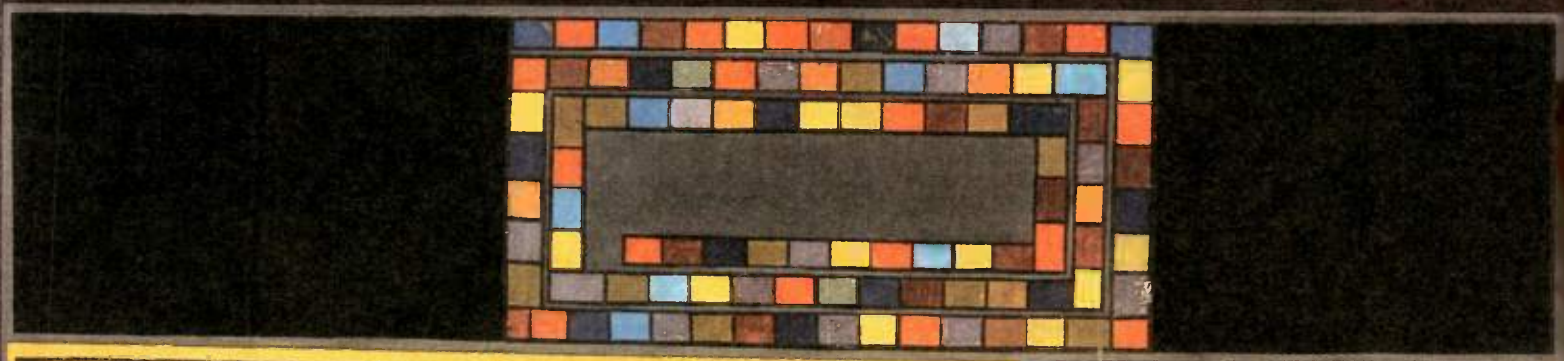
Like a vom hammock?

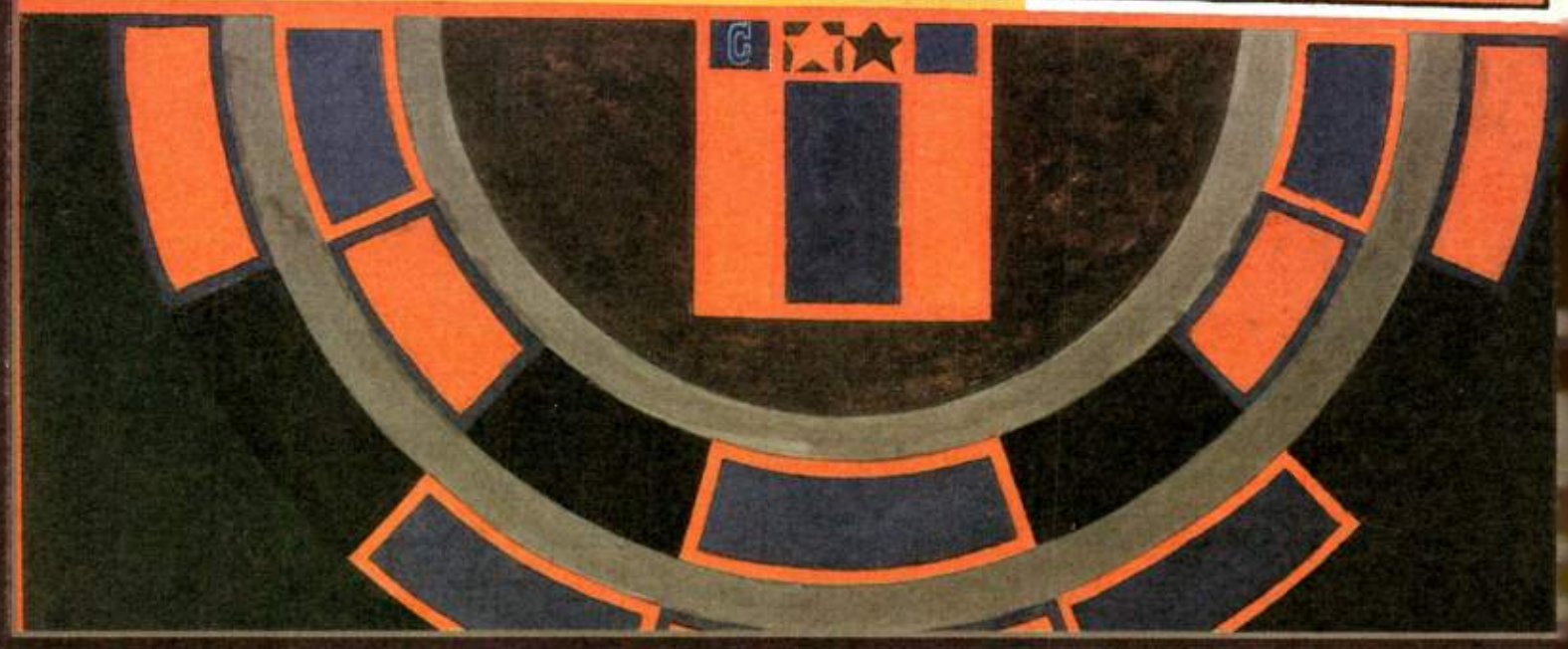
"Yes, just like a hammock. And then the taxi driver stopped, pulled me out by my hair and drove off. As it happens, I was only 50 yards from my house, so I got the last laugh."

FYI

- **Neil, Elbow's manager, chose the names 'Elle' and 'Bo' for the band's alien things**
- **This makes him the Bo selector**
- **Guy didn't exactly find that observation hilarious**

THE STROKES





ROOM ON FIRE

AMERICA PLAYS WITH DARKNESS

The band continue their US assault by licensing tracks to computer games - and they're not the only ones

The Darkness' assault on America has been given an unusual boost in the form of a sports computer game – and they're not the only ones.

Tracks from the band's debut album 'Permission To Land' have been picked up by EA Sports who are resonsible for the hugely successful John Madden American football series – a move which could prove make or break for the band's US fortunes.

British bands have traditionally struggled for years trying to break America. The sheer size of the country for touring, and intense competition for playlisting on TV and radio mean most fall at the first hurdle.

Yet, with the increase in the use of new music video game soundtracks, more bands are finding that a well-placed song can send their profile in the States skyrocketing.

Steve Schnur is Worldwide Executive Of Music And Audio for EA, the software powerhouse who have also pioneered state-of-the-art sports games like the MVP baseball series. He claims that the gaming market is becoming more and more crucial to a band's promotion.

"The bottom line is that you know people between the ages of 12 and 24 spend the majority of their social time online, and they spend the rest of their time playing video games," he told *NME*. "Radio and TV have become the third and fourth hub of activity. Since we started being dedicated to new music and new bands, I would say about 95 per cent of all the music in EA games now are new bands."

The Darkness are the latest band that EA see as a central part of their development. Schnur came across the band after reading about them in *NME* and picked up a copy of 'Permission To Land' when visiting the UK. All it took was a call to the band's US label, Atlantic, and the wheels were in motion, he says, for the breaking of the band in the world's most lucrative music market.

"We've created these partnerships with all the labels and all the publishers, and with so many of the bands – hip-hop, techno, rock and so on – we've had an enormous influence on record sales and an enormous influence on ticket sales. We have an enormous influence on radio requests, and enormous amount of influence on the press. Through the time they're playing Fifa or NBA Live, they discover American hip-hop artists like **Fabolous** (and) Canadian artists like **Avril Lavigne**. With Fifa we had **Kings Of Leon**."

Schnur says that the key to success is for companies like EA to operate as far in advance as radio and television pluggers.

"Now would be a bad time to put **Junior Senior**'s first single in the UK in a game that comes out a year from now," says Schnur. "We need to be developing bands just like *NME* does, just like certain radio stations and just like sometimes MTV does."

As such, tracks from The Darkness will appear on EA games in time for the band to build on the US release of 'Permission To Land'. The next British band to receive Schnur's golden touch will be **Lostprophets**, who have already licensed three tracks from their forthcoming second album to three EA titles next year.

"You can look at our video game stage much more like an MTV environment now, dedicated to new music and new bands," says Schnur. "We've done away with, with all due respect, the days when football games would just have **Chumbawamba**."

"We've had an enormous influence on record sales and on ticket sales"

Steve Schnur, Electronic Arts

Permission to land (a windfall): Justin in unlikely sports tie-in

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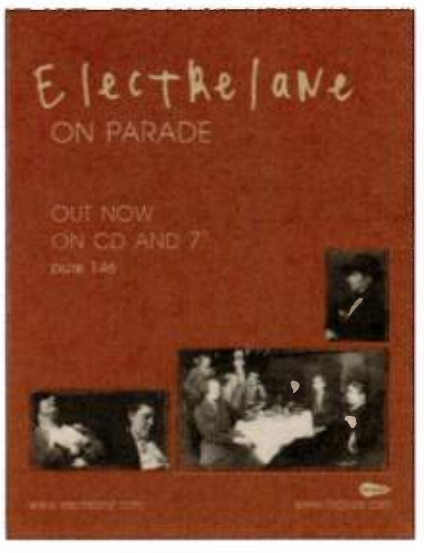

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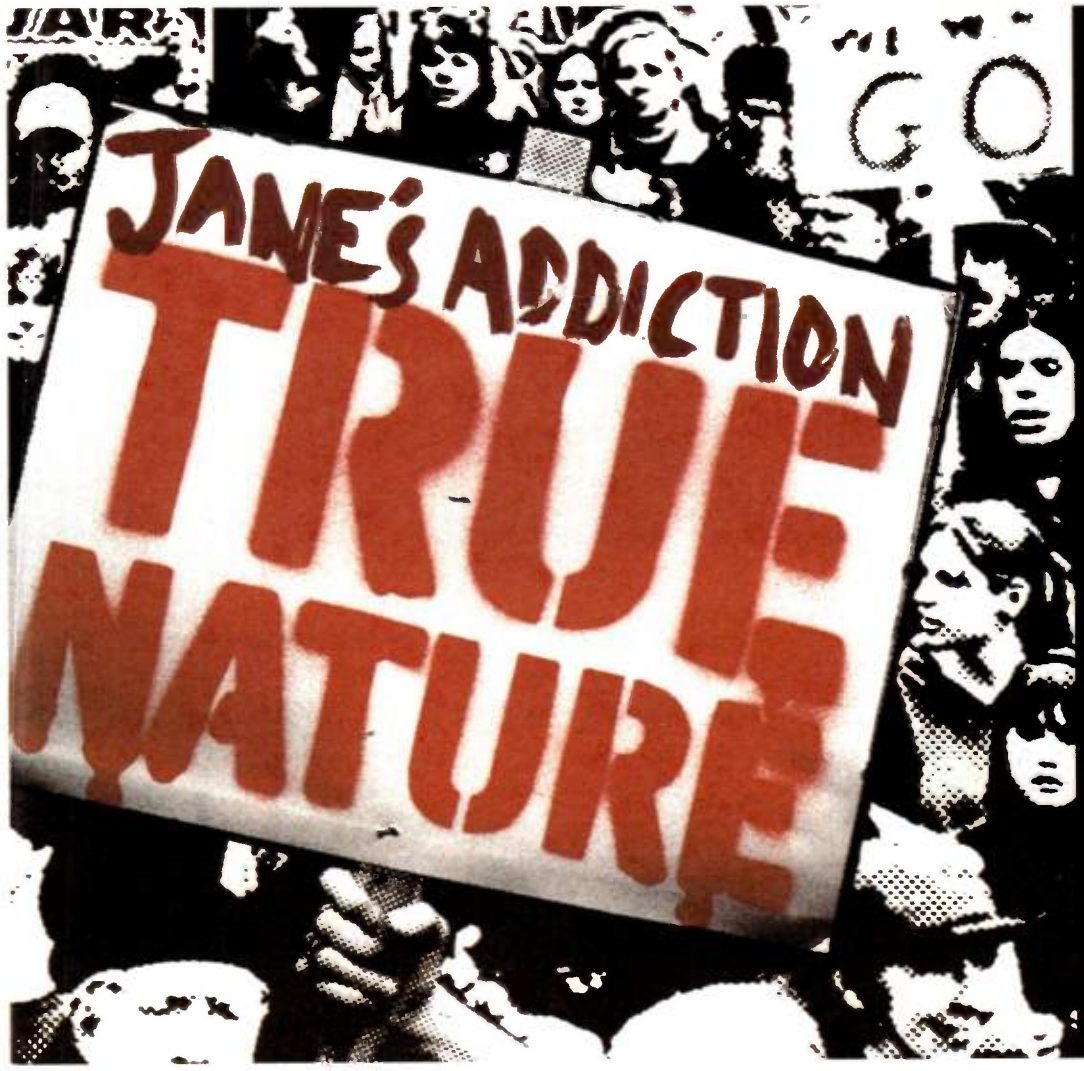

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8 Norwich Waterfront* / 9 Portsmouth Pyramid* / 10 London Brixton Academy*

WRH

THE NME ARTIST DIRECTORY

Everything you need to know about sci-fi videos and mango plantations

Key: Recording, Release, Touring, Rumour, Love, Drugs, Booze, Style, Fight, Diva, Mates, Spotted, Debauched, Madness

50 Cent

50 Cent's rap collective **G-Unit** have spoken exclusively to *NME* about their forthcoming album 'Beg For Mercy', due out on November 17. Recorded in their tourbus during their stint on **Jay-Z**'s Roc The Mic Tour in the US, G-Unit laid down the tracks in a studio built where the toilet should have been.

Rapper **Lloyd Banks** said: "You could be sleeping on the way to the next hotel and wake up and have an idea so you could go into the booth and lay it down... before you know it you've got two or three records done in one day."

He added: "The fans are naturally going to regard it as the follow-up to 'Get Rich Or Die Tryin'". It is the follow-up but now you have four different points of view. If someone got shot in my neighbourhood we're all going to know about it but we're all going to have different ways to tell you."

Speaking about his friendship with 50, Banks said: "It's not a gimmick. We grew up together. When I say that I would take a bullet for that man, they understand why – he took me from nothing."

Coldplay

If you're stuck for the ideal Christmas gift for your nearest and dearest then look no further than the **Coldplay** Celebrity Tree Tube! Retailing at £17.50, the tubes were designed by the band and will certify that you have a tree planted in part of the Mango Plantation in India supported by the band. As part of the Future Forests campaign, the plantation made Coldplay's last album 'A Rush Of Blood To The Head' carbon neutral. That means the 10,000 mango trees planted on behalf of the band are enough to soak up all of the carbon dioxide emitted in the production, manufacture and distribution of the CD.

To buy a sapling in the Coldplay forest go to *www.futureforests.com* or call 0870 2411932.

TCTC

As **The Cooper Temple Clause** warm up for their first ever US appearance (October 24), the group have revealed that visa problems in the past have plagued their entrance to the country. The band are scheduled to play New York's Irving Plaza this Friday (October 24). After playing Tokyo's Liquid Rooms last week (October 14-15), bassist **Didz** told *NME* that every time the band have tried to visit America in the past their visas have been rejected.

He said: "I think it's because we've always pulled stupid faces in the photos which are then used for official documentation and they obviously thought, 'No way!' But this time we got a nice interview at the end of it and they decided to let us in."

However, Didz remains sceptical of how the band will be received in the notoriously difficult American market. He added: "I think we're quite different to the impression you get of the New York scene – a lot different to that. It'll either go down as this fascinating future of music or it'll go down as some weird little kids with hair and synthesizers. We'll have to wait and see."

The Distillers

Brody Dalle and co will release 'Drain The Blood' on November 3 as the first single from **The Distillers**' latest album, 'Coral Fang'.

The single, produced by Gil Norton (Foo Fighters, Pixies), will precede the band's visit to the UK where they will play a handful of dates at Glasgow QMU (November 11), Manchester Academy 2 (12), London WC2 Astoria (13) and Nottingham Rock City (15). Call the *NME* Ticketline on 0870 1 663 663 for more information.

Didz: his funny face is his passport

SAM JONES

Strokes get it Tron

First shots from sci-fi new video for '12:51'

The Strokes

Here are the first shots from the video for '12:51' which sees **The Strokes** ditch their trademark style for a high-tech makeover. Inspired by the cult 1982 film *Tron*, the promo was shot on August 26 in the Queens district of New York, the day after The Strokes finished work on their second album, **'Room** On Fire'. The video was **directed by Roman Coppola**, the son of legendary film-maker Francis Ford Coppola.

Speaking recently about the video, drummer **Fab Moretti** said: "*Tron*'s such a beautifully made movie that we wanted to use some of the aspects against our music. *Tron*'s so innovative, it's like eye candy."

'Room On Fire' was released on Monday (October 20). **The** group continue to tour across the US with **Kings Of Leon**. For more from the road, turn to page 24 now.

Electric Six

Electric Six have added new dates to their UK tour and have upgraded some of the venues due to demand for tickets.

Their appearance at Aberdeen Lemon Tree (November 26) has now moved to the city's Music Hall, while the Norwich Waterfront (30) gig will now take place at the UEA. The new dates are: Newcastle University (November 25), Aberdeen Music Hall (26), Glasgow Barrowlands (27), Liverpool University (28), Preston University (29), Norwich UEA (30), Aberystwyth University (December 2), Bournemouth University (3), Leeds Metropolitan University (4), Sheffield University (5), Manchester MDH (6), Nottingham Rock City (7), London Brixton Academy (9), Dublin Ambassador (10), Bristol Bierkeller (12), Cardiff University (13), Plymouth University (15), Oxford Town Hall (16), Birmingham Sanctuary (17) and Stoke Staffordshire University (18).

Eminem

Eminem's crew **D12** have begun work on their second album 'Devil's Night II: Halloween' and hope to release it at the start of next year.

The follow-up to their 2001 debut 'Devil's Night' is set to drop in February 2004.

The Detroit rappers have enlisted the help of producer Kanye West (DMX, Jay-Z) to work on the record, though according to *Rolling Stone*, D12 kingpin Eminem will handle some of the production duties alongside bandmate **Kon Artis**.

Jet

Jet will be celebrating their headlining appearances on the *NME* Rock'n'Roll Riot Tour by doing a special series of HMV instore signings throughout the UK. The six signings all start at 5pm, taking place before the *NME* gigs which also feature **The Hiss**.

The HMV dates are: HMV Glasgow, Unit 5-6, Lewis' Building, Argyle Street – live set and signing (October 27), HMV Newcastle, 56 Northumberland Street – live set and signing (28), HMV Sheffield, 14-18 High Street – signing only (29), HMV Liverpool, 22-36 Church Street – signing only (30), HMV Norwich, 21 Gentleman's Walk – signing only (November 3) and HMV Brighton, 48-50 Churchill Square Shopping Centre – signing only (5).

Kings Of Leon

Kings Of Leon have already settled right in on their US tour support slot with **The Strokes**. The bands played their first dates on a whirlwind trip across the States last week, starting at the Philadelphia Tower Theatre (October 9-10).

Writing on The Strokes' official website, *thestrokes.com*, the band's tour manager said that both bands are taking time out between gigs to hang out and catch up with old friends. He said: "After soundcheck **Nick** and **Fab** played basketball with the local crew and the Kings Of Leon." A short clip of the bands playing basketball has been posted on *thestrokes.com*.

QOTSA

Josh Homme and **Nick Oliveri** were spotted last week (October 12) as **Ash** frontman **Tim Wheeler** played an acoustic set to fewer than 50 fans at Los Angeles Spaceland. Also in attendance was Josh's squeeze, **Distillers** frontwoman **Brody Dalle**, as well as Brighton noise-rockers **The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster**.

Wheeler teamed up with **The Rentals' Matt Sharp** for six songs including 'Girl From Mars', 'Goldfinger' and new tracks 'Open Air' and 'Renegade Cavalcade'.

Travis

Travis celebrated the launch of new album '12 Memories' with a whistle-stop UK tour. The gigs, which opened in Belfast then visited Glasgow, Manchester and London, were peppered with new songs from their fourth album, which was released last Monday (October 13). The tour was the band's first since drummer **Neil Primrose** was seriously injured in a freak swimming pool accident last year.

"It's good to be back," singer **Fran Healy** said. "In the last year we went out to the edge and almost never came back. It's great to survive and come back."

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ANTI-NEWS

WE DON'T REALLY GET JET

6 THINGS THAT SHOOK THE WEEK

1 **Lil' Kim** is ace. This isn't something which characterises this week in particular, but you know what we mean.

2 We love the fact that, at an airport recently, we overheard the **22-20s** humming **Mark Owen**'s 'Four Minute Warning'.

3 Bleeeee! Don't stand in the wings when **Guided By Voices** are onstage – at the band's recent Manchester show the drummer had to run offstage "to puke". *Anti-News* once saw **Jon** from **S Club** do the same, as it happens.

4 We've been to a land down under! And we have seen **Craig Nicholls** out of **The Vines** – remember them? – and **Bob** from **Black Rebel Motorcycle Club** watching **The White Stripes** in Sydney. Tell you what – some band names, like The Beatles, are really bad, but you get used to them. But we're still not sure about Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.

5 Hrrrnk! Sound the **'Blazin' Squad** hanging around *NME* towers like a load of car thieves' siren! Because, and this came as a surprise to us too, last week we saw Blazin' Squad hanging around *NME* towers like a load of car thieves. Hurrah!

6 And finally, we're still excited by the news that **Morrissey** went to see **The Webb Brothers** when they played a music concert recently. The **Gallaghers** both being at **I Am Kloot** is one thing, but Moz at the Webbs is a cracker. Sort of.

YOUR DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO...

SHARON OSBOURNE'S 51ST BIRTHDAY (WITH ELTON JOHN)

It's a candle. (Wind not pictured)
Looking at Sharon's mouth, he's seen that sort of scene before, we'd wager
Nice nightie
With this tracksuit, don't you think Elton looks a bit like a Blazin' Squad member's grandad?
That sleeve's going to catch fire if she's not careful. And, even having heard Kelly's album, we can't begin to imagine the racket she'd make
Birthday cake is there to be savoured, not rushed. Textbook error

GRR! IT'S THE GOSSIP LEOPARD

Rufus Wainwright gig special!

One of *The League Of Gentlemen*, though I'm not sure which one
My sunglasses are Photoshopped on, you know?
Phill Jupitus. He'd certainly 'phill' me up if I ate him
Beth Orton, dressed as Pete Libertine in a trilby hat
Neil Tennant, in a really crap seat right at the back

WENN/DEAN CHALKLEY

NME TAT PARADE This week:

A TAHITI 80 SINGLE

We don't often find ourselves too bothered when a Tahiti 80 single limps into the office, but this one caught our eye due to a hilarious misprint which, if Sunday night freakshow *That's Life!* was still going, would be straight back in a Jiffy bag and posted in the direction of BBC Television Centre. Sadly, the show was cancelled several years ago, so all Tahiti 80 merit is a small mention in *Anti-News*. Oh well.

THE HORN SECTION

This week: Dizzee Rascal

Steph, via email, writes: "Hi my name's steph and i fink Dizzee rascal should of won da fing coz he is OVA BUFF and he iz a heavy Artist! any wayz e mail bak yeah safe!"

Send your own nominations for *The Horn Section* to *antinews@nme.com*

IT'S NME'S BLIND ITEM

Q: Who did we recently see enjoying some disgusting-looking flavoured vodkas?

A: That's right, it was

Useful link: www.nbp.org/ajph.html

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RADAR

SEEKING OUT THE BEST IN NEW MUSIC

Edited by Imran Ahmed

'WE APPEAL TO THAT CRAZY, VIOLENT SIDE IN PEOPLE'

What else would you expect from a band named after a serial killer's accomplice? Kasabian are an electro rock riot waiting to happen

Don't touch that dial! If Kasabian have anything to do with it, the revolution *will* be televised. Spacecakes will be served from the steps of Number Ten, *Fight Club* will be on a 24-hour loop on all channels and their thermonuclear electro riot-rock will provide the soundtrack.

"It's time, mate!" booms Tom Meighan. "Britain doesn't own rock'n'roll but we're the guardians of it, and everyone knows it. The Stones, Zeppelin, the Pistols, the Gallaghers... we're in that line. Coldplay are probably good blokes, it's just that they're, well, fannies."

Kasabian (pronounced Kur-say-be-an) are sitting in front of a roaring log fire at their rehearsal room-cum-living space on a farm in rural Rutland, near Leicester. Despite a 14-month residency at this rambling farmhouse, overflowing with spare rooms, the four of them (singer Tom, guitarist Christopher Karloff, guitarist/programmer Sergio Pizzorro and bassist Chris Edwards) still sleep together in one tiny bedroom. But maybe that's what happens when you name yourself after a member of the Manson Family.

"Linda Kasabian drove the getaway car after the murders," offers Christopher of the infamous 1969 Hollywood massacre. "It's just a good name. I don't go round slashing up celebrities. *(Pause)* Not yet anyway."

"We're not really into serial killers," grins Serge. "But we do appeal to that crazy side of people. It's that violent, repetitive element in the music that appeals to a gang mentality."

Kasabian's music is not for the faint of heart. Jaw-dropping debut single 'Processed Beats' builds from a sub-atomic rumble of bass and coiled guitars to a mogadon mantra over which Tom snarls lyrics like, *"I break bones/Stealing mobile phones"*. It's like Primal Scream with toothache (Bobby G, inevitably, is a big fan) and comes with a free flag to add to the air of brooding menace. If it sounds like the aural equivalent of a gang of kids loitering on street corners in Leicester after midnight, that's because it is.

"Tom used to sing in the streets, that's how we formed the band," volunteers Serge. "We'd hang around drinking a few beers and then he'd start randomly singing: Cypress Hill, Motown, Michael Jackson, just whatever came into his head, really fucking loudly. After it was funny you'd realise that he had this brilliant voice. You didn't have much choice, you could hear him three streets away."

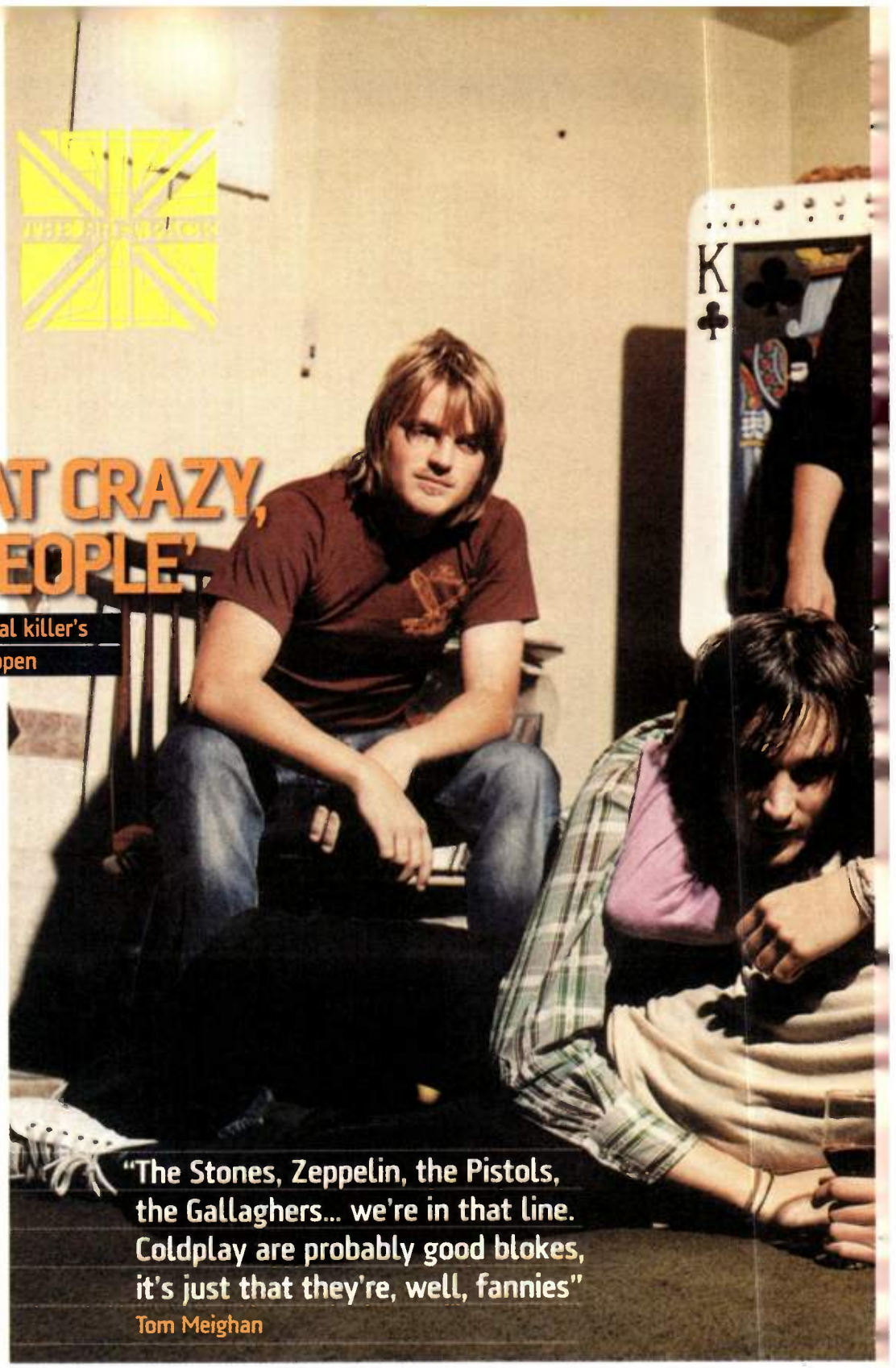
Kasabian's rock'n'roll juggernaut has so far steamrollered the opposition. "When we played in Cardiff there was silence for 30 seconds after we came off," says Tom. "They didn't even know what had happened to 'em."

"Those were the stealth gigs," adds Serge. "Now the gloves are off, we're gonna start recruiting for real."

Paul Moody

'Processed Beats' is released on limited ten-inch on November 10 (BMG). Listen to Kasabian plus some of the best Brit bands around at NME.COM/AUDIO

SAM JONES/ED MILES


"The Stones, Zeppelin, the Pistols, the Gallaghers... we're in that line. Coldplay are probably good blokes, it's just that they're, well, fannies"
Tom Meighan

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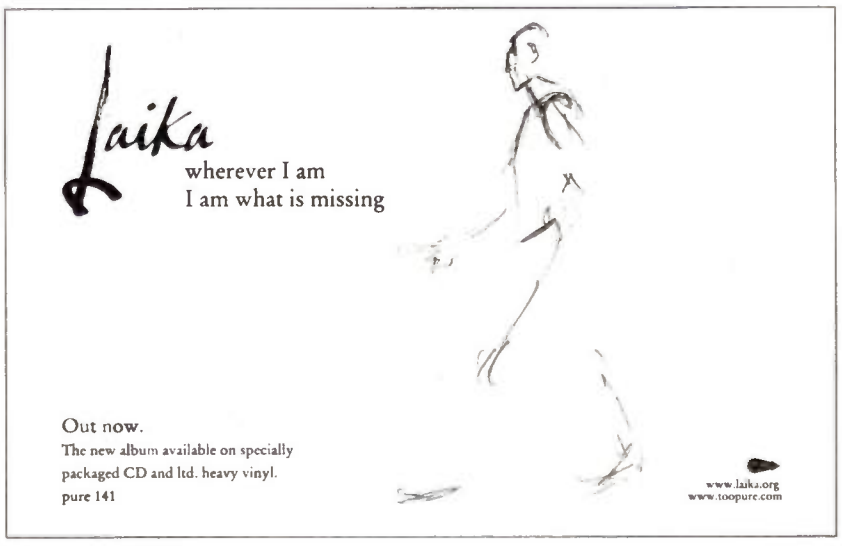


Kasabian (l-r): Chris Edwards, Sergio, Tom, Christopher Karloff (standing at back). It's not known if the King Of Clubs is a permanent member of the band

NEWS ZIPS

The Zutons, who are currently recording their debut LP with producer Ian Broudie, have a new single coming out. 'Pressure Point', the follow-up to the excellent 'Creepin' An' A' Crawlin'' is released on December 1 via Deltasonic. See them at Leeds Cockpit (22), Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (23), Sheffield Leadmill (25) and Manchester Roadhouse (26).

Barry-based nutjobs **My Red Cell** have announced that their Liam Watson-produced 'My Red Cell' EP will come in a customised (or as the band put it in their press release "fucked up personally") sleeve. *Radar*'s copy says "She's Fuckin' Leavin'" and "Roll Up, Roll Up, The greatest smoke on Earth". Charming.

As well as supporting **Jane's Addiction** on their forthcoming UK tour, **Stellastarr*** have announced a series of their own headline dates in November. The band play Leeds Cockpit (November 13), Middlesbrough Cornerhouse (14), Dundee Westport Bar (15), Edinburgh Venue (16), Newcastle Global (18), York Fibbers (19), Sheffield Fez Club (20), Stoke Sugarmill (21), Reading Fez Club (22) and London Islington Academy (24).

Hairy, scary Bristol-based prog-rockers **Gonga** are set to unleash their primal self-titled debut LP on November 17 via Invade Records. Catch them live at London SW1 ICA (October 31) and Bristol Lakota (November 7).

MY FAVOURITE NEW BAND

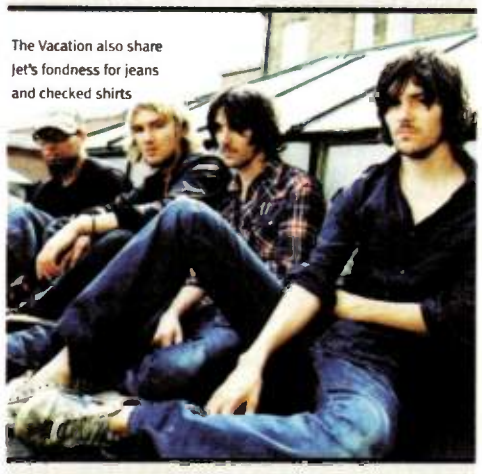
Jet's Chris Cester on The Vacation's scuzz glam

"We first heard about The Vacation on our last trip to Britain. We were both staying at the Columbia Hotel just before the Reading and Leeds festivals and we all hit it off. They liked hanging out at the bar of the Columbia and so did we – giving that old guy on the desk who's always complaining some lip. We talked about influences and I ended up lending the singer Ben *(Tegel)* my clothes – he didn't seem to have too many clothes of his own!

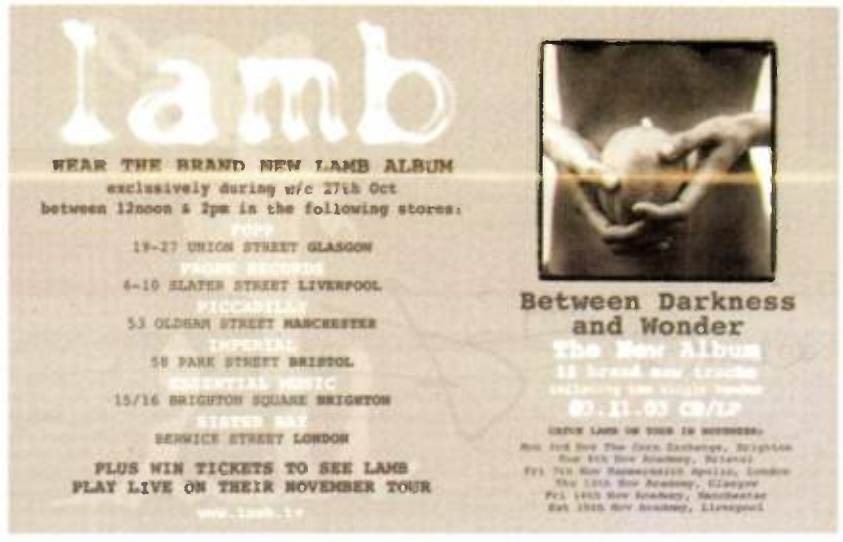
"Then we saw them play at Leeds and they were amazing. Their music is pretty driving and reminds me a lot of The Stooges – they have a drone thing going and Ben crawls around the stage like Iggy Pop. There's one song they play right at the end of their set called 'Trash'. It goes on for about ten minutes and it's really great.

"They're from LA and they hang around with John Bonham's daughter a lot. They're up at that old Led Zeppelin ranch a lot just hanging out – or so they say. I'm not sure there's any Zep influence on their music though. They're just cool guys with a great sound."

Chris Cester was talking to Paul McNamee



The Vacation also share Jet's fondness for jeans and checked shirts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GO POSTAL

PUCKA STROKES LP, KAREN O'S BUMPY HEAD AND THE GREAT DRUMMER DEBATE

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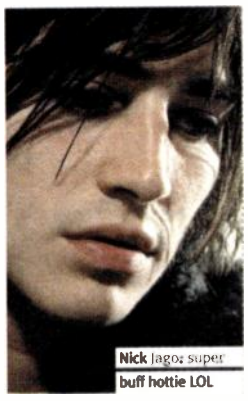

Nick Jago: super buff hottie LOL

STAR LETTER

STOKED AND STROKED

I have just got my hands on my brand new copy of 'Room On Fire'. I'm only halfway through listening to it but I can't resist the urge any longer to tell the world how amazing it is! I was really worried that after all the hype it would be a letdown, but I couldn't have been more wrong. 'You Talk Way Too Much' and 'Reptilia' are even better than '12:51' – and I wasn't sure that was even possible! It sounds really poppy and gritty at the same time in the way very few other bands manage. The best bit? The lyrics on the inside – now I can sing along even when I can't make out a word Julian's talking about! I always thought it was bullshit when people talked about 'instant classics' – I thought they were the sort of thing that only time could prove. But now I realise they really do exist! I'm only two tracks from the end now and I still feel the same!
Sarah, London

No, we couldn't believe it either when we first heard it – "How can anything ever follow 'Is This It'?" we asked ourselves. And we'll be honest, there were the initial doubters to begin with, uttering things about liking the tunes on the first one better. But, thanks to the *NME* Rules And Regulations which state all employees must have 'Room On Fire' on constant rotation (only breaking for a quick spin of 'Up The Bracket' at lunchtimes) it wasn't long before those quick-talking dissenters had egg smeared all over the other side of their faces. Or something. So while it's fantastic that you think it's an instant classic, others – and we're looking at you now, Russell (below) – might want to give it a couple more whirls just to make sure it's definitely not one of the best records they've ever heard – KM

The Strokes set our readers' stereos on fire

RUBBED UP THE WRONG WAY

Come on, give it a rest. Week after week it's The Strokes. In *The Agenda* in this week's issue (*NME*, October 18) you write, "As we have said, 'it's a classic – the best thing they have ever done.'" It's only their second album. Not hard to be their best album ever. Let's hear what you say five albums down the line. I doubt you will even remember who they are.
Russell Harper, Manchester

I had my doubts over you lot backing up The Strokes all the time but I just heard their new album and well... THAT'TH PUCKA JOOLTH. PATH ME THE THALT!!!
Brian, via email

LIBERTY AND FRATERNITY

At last justice has been done. One of the greatest songwriters and performers this country has produced in the last ten years is free to rejoin the best band in the country. The Libertines have got what the Sex Pistols, The Clash, Oasis and all the other successful British acts have had. Attitude, individuality and style in abundance, not to mention perfect songs. The Libertines are flying the flag for British music among all this bog-standard Darkness excuse for entertainment. It's time for some real boys to stand up and show them how it's done. Up the bracket forever.
Gary Martin, Middlesbrough

From the number of letters we've had, it seems last week's pics of Pete and Carl snuggling up together outside prison and at the Libs' reunion show have warmed even the iciest of hearts. Everyone that is, except, Neil from Deptford. He had this to say – KM

I went to that Libertines show in Kent last week to see the 'reunion of the year'. All I can say is what a waster time. They were much better off without that drug-addled loser coming back to try and ruin everything again. I liked it best when Didz from the Coopers took his place.
Neil, Deptford

YEAH YEAH... OUCH!

Just one hour ago we witnessed the long-awaited return of Yeah Yeah Yeahs to the Antipodean shores. Bewitching in a spangly cat's-eye mask and red fluffy party dress festooned with large plastic googly eyes, Karen O and co had us in the palm of her demented hand – until five songs later when the punk-muppet took a dive off the stage into the barricades. While the folks behind me yelled, "What would Iggy do?" she struggled gamely back onstage, clutching a bag of ice wrapped in a garish frock to her head and sang a heartbreakingly concussed version of 'Maps'. Then she muttered something about "hospital" and staggered offstage. Last time I saw her she was being loaded into an ambulance being cheered on by her stripey T-shirt clones. Poor munchkin. Please dear God and *NME* make Karen O's strangely elongated head all better so she can sing us some more songs!
Lisa, Sydney

Good news: the last we heard from the only woman in pop who can make falling offstage and an elongated head look cool is that she's well and truly on the mend – KM

JAGO-A-GO-GO

Seeing that it was Kings Of Leon on the cover and the lovely Cooper Temple Clause were mentioned I thought I'd take my chance and buy a copy of *NME*. And boy, am I glad I did! For if I hadn't taken that chance I would not be now marvelling at the tiny but beautiful – not forgetting talented – creature that is Nick Jago. In reply to Atlas The Brute (*Go Postal*, October 11) complaining about the lack of sexy rockers, you can't get any sexier than him! And despite Peter from *Lame*, sorry *Fame Academy* looking like he desperately wants to be a cross between Didz and one of The Libertines I wouldn't say no to him either!
Nick Jago obsessives Nat and Linda, via email

What went wrong with the Supergroup drummers? Most of those names are fair enough: Bonham, Moon, Grohl, Cester and Jago, sure, good choices. But Meg White? I am 15 years old and have been playing the drums for only 11 months, and I guarantee you that given five minutes to learn them, I could play any White Stripes drum track. They are unbelievably easy and require little or no coordination, and no, that isn't the genius of it, because they don't sound great either. Oh, and you omitted the three most talented drummers of all time. The famous jazzman Buddy Rich, Neil Peart of Rush, and Mike Portnoy of Dream Theater. How could you leave them out?
Tom Johnson, Kent

Shit, Tom, I can't fathom it either – KM

YOUNG, FRESH AND NEW!

Having just spent an evening at the Nottingham Social, I felt so moved as to email you to affirm that Franz Ferdinand are utterly fantastic (not that you needed telling). They're the best parts of '80s music all thrown together in one great package. Superb! Special mention also for support act Ludes, who should change their name to The Coraltines because they sound... well, you can figure that one out for yourself.
Richard W, Nottingham

Went to see Franz Ferdinand at Fibbers last night. It was bloody great, like watching Talking Heads in CBGBs. Frogs Die In Hot Bars weren't bad either.
Mitchmo, via email

On Wednesday night I saw the amazing new band Razorlight supporting (the amazingly boring) Hope Of The States at the Oxford Zodiac. Who cares about The Libertines and that Pete is out of jail? I'm sick of seeing The Darkness on the cover – I demand the gorgeous Razorlight! Now! Razorlight are better than The Libertines because as well as being good-looking they are talented and actually care about their music. I know whose posters will be adorning my walls this year.
Natalie, via email

Natalie – who iz your fav member of Razorlight? Mine is Johnny. He iz da singer and I fink he has well nice hair. I also fink Glen out of 22-20s iz lush. Oh soz – I mean Martin. LOL! – KM

FAME, FAME, FATAL FAME

I like the fact that you didn't just annihilate Peter Brame from *Fame Academy* (*NME*, October 11). Although all the

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BELINDA
NEW ZEALAND

"This is **Whirlwind Heat**'s Steve Damstra, **the rabbit we** gave **them,** myself **and** David **Swanson after their gig in** Wellington."

MAI
JAPAN

"Here I am with Steve **from Longwave after their gig in Osaka. He was so nice. Look. He's got really sweet** smile."

MIYUKI
JAPAN

"I met Ian Brown on a flight from London **to Tokyo. He was** very **nice and friendly. Great bloke!"**

ZOE
OXFORD

"Here's **me and Fred Durst at the Manchester Apollo."**

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DEAN CHALKLEY/PHIL WALLIS/DAVID ELLIS

artists (and I use that word loosely) who have emerged from such shows to date are, at best, bloody terrible and, at worst, Kym Marsh, I think Peter Brame has the potential to be the first one who is credible, worthwhile and bloody entertaining. I actually made an effort to watch some of *Fame Academy* over the last few months and heard him play some stuff he wrote himself and it was really good. And that's why I hope you will give him a chance before deciding he's just another useless arse from a poncey TV show trying to get rich quick. Like Peter Robinson said, "If *Fame Academy* had never happened and I saw you in Shoreditch fronting a band, it'd be great." Well, *Fame Academy* did happen but maybe, just maybe, it could still be great.
Dave Tinkletoes, Essex

THE ALL-KNOWING NME BRAIN

Settle a pub argument? Find a fact? Ask The NME Brain

I've heard that some people have been removed from the huge group montage on the cover of The Beatles' 'Sgt Peppers...' since it was put out. Is this true?
Chris Shaw, East Sussex

The cover of The Beatles' 1967 psychedelic masterpiece designed by English artist Peter Blake featured The Beatles' heroes, obsessions and people whose names they just liked the sound of (like Johnny Weismuller). It originally featured Ghandi, who was removed because EMI didn't want to cause offence in India, and Leo Gorcey, an American actor, who was removed after asking for a fee. The fool. Other people who were suggested were Elvis, Hitler and Jesus – the last two chosen by the mischievous John Lennon. Mae West originally refused to appear after asking, why would *she* be in a lonely hearts club? She changed her mind after The Beatles wrote her a personal letter.

Pose your queries at *NME.COM/NMEBRAIN*

I'm glad you interviewed that twit from *Fame Academy* and bludgeoned him with humiliating and sarcastic questions – it confirmed what I initially thought. He is a clueless cock and the way he wants to be associated with rock is an insult!
Shak Yousaf, via email

But Shak, how can you say dat about Pete when he iz so young (like 12 years old or summat?) and so sexie too! I tell you who I fink R rubbish – Jet. They R so not fit. Unless you fancy boyz wid beards in which case they R pretty fit – KM

NME OPEN LETTER

Dear Jet and The Darkness,
Even though you're from Australia and, um, Suffolk, I'm sure you're aware that in this country the Christmas single is the last refuge of Cliff Richard and Mr Blobby. A haven for the cheapest kind of novelty pop-pap. The record that people who don't buy records buy and sexually harass their secretaries to at office parties nationwide. I'm glad, then, that you will both be reversing the trend with singles that reinstate some kind of quality control to the festive record. So what are the titles going to be, then? What's that? 'Bell's End'? 'Back Door Santa'? Fuck's sake.
Primrose Hille, NME

JET SET WILLY

Thanks for pointing out that Jet's misspelling of Kings Of Leon to Kings Of Leo (*News*, October 11) was evidence of their hilarious practical joking. Otherwise we may have also assumed their inability to spell Lincoln on the defaced banknote was because they're thick-as-pig-shit Neanderthal knobheads.
Paul Bevan, via email

...AND FINALLY

I have no particular views on whether Kate Moss is a good pole dancer or not, but I thought I'd write in so you'd have an excuse to print her picture at the top of the page for the third week in a row.
Flum, Edinburgh

COOLFREESTUFF

WIN! WIN A TRIP TO BARCELONA TO SEE SPIRITUALIZED!

The **Wintercase San Miguel Festival 2003** takes place across Spain from November 20-30 and features an array of top acts from **Electric Six** to **Suede** and **Spiritualized** – and now you, too, could be there! *NME* has tickets for you, plus a mate, to fly out to Barcelona and bed down in a three-star hotel on the weekend of November 29 to watch space-rocker Jason Pierce, aka Spiritualized, play live on his leg of the festival.

To enter, all you have to do is complete the title of the following Spiritualized album:

'LET IT ---- ----'

Next click online to *NME.COM/COMPS* to input your answer, including a daytime contact number. You must be over 18 to enter this competition.

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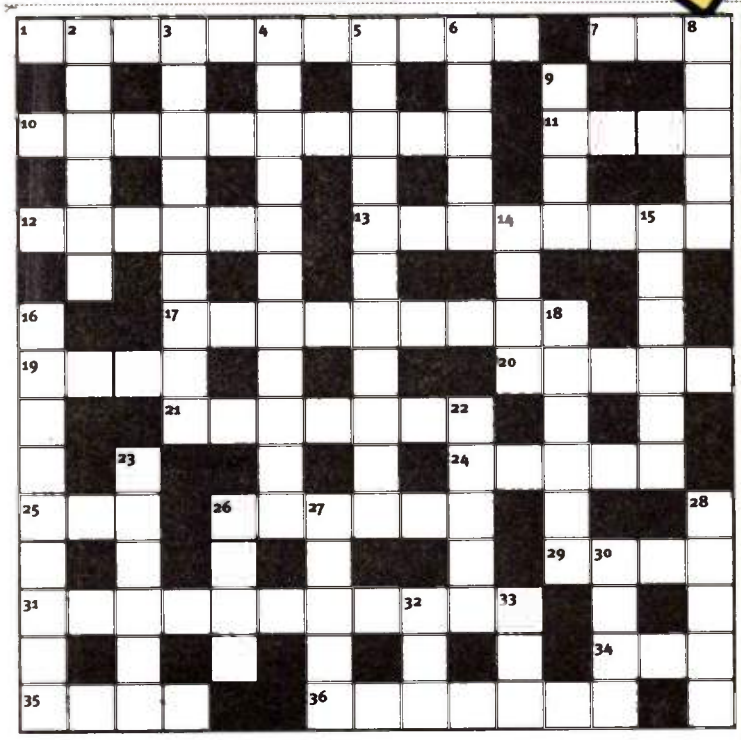

CLUES ACROSS

1+31A+19A Justin time to be convinced of the truth in one of Johnny Cash's biggest hit songs (1-7-2-1-5-6-4)
7 (See 32 down)
10 The Dandy Warhols confirm that girls are the weaker sex (4-6)
11 Ladytron making a live comeback (4)
12 OK everyone, move along with The Cars (4-2)
13 As Stephen Morris and Gillian Gilbert tagged themselves away from New Order (5-3)
17 She starred in the role of Billie Holiday in the film *Lady Sings The Blues* (5-4)
19 (See 1 across)
20 Swiss band who entered 'The Race' in 1985 (5)
21+28D They'll need to be treated differently coming from a Massive Attack (7-5)
24 Nothing a half-sister can do for this band (5)
25 They told 'The Story Of The Blues' (3)
26 Greatest Hits compilation from a famous person – Bob Marley (6)
29+33D Arrested Development drummer gets in an extra sad one (4-3)
31 (See 1 across)
34 American expressing some surprise at ___ Street, rap label (3)
35 They took some time up this year with a 'Waster' (4)
36 (See 2 down)

CLUES DOWN

2+36A Some quiet pieces from So Solid Crew (6-7)
3 Does lists, perhaps, for compilation album of old Doves material (4-5)
4 Not such a good sight if revenge is taken by UNKLE (3-3-2-3)
5 Anyone who's raw is just to the taste of Limp Bizkit (3-3-5)
6 Direction taken by Elvis Costello on his latest album (5)
8 A thousand having a look around with Placebo (5)
9 Member of Simple Minds spotted in the snooker room (4)
14 Without much effort, a piece of work from Groove Armada (4)
15 Mainman of Utah Saints is among the few I'll issue to (6)
16 A twee Blur arrangement on a Fields Of The Nephilim number (4-5)
18 'Stacked Up' dance act can get that feeling (6)
22 John of The Moody Blues has his own place to live (5)
23 Once, twice, three times a hardcore act (6)
26 Both Art Of Noise and ZZ Top will stand by them (4)
27 Rap act will be in the bingo at seven o'clock (5)
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Compiled after being jilted at the altar by Trevor Hungerford

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Jules on fire: Casablancas in action (belt still intact at this juncture)

Bigger better faster more!

Like hometown hero Rocky Balboa returning to the boxing ring, The Strokes make a spectacular return to the live arena in Philadelphia

Words: **Elizabeth Goodman** in Philadelphia

Photographs: **Pieter M Van Hattem** in Toronto/**Elizabeth Goodman** in Philadelphia

If The Strokes are a band who celebrate grime and glamour in equal measure, tonight they're playing in the ideal venue. The Tower Theatre in Philadelphia is a grand, Depression-era performance space that used to host vaudeville acts back in the '30s. Since then, bands as famous as Jane's Addiction – and as infamous as Mötley Crüe – have played in its lushly upholstered 3,500-capacity auditorium. This is the second show of The Strokes' two-night residency, the start of the band's first proper tour for 12 months, a tour that will lead them across the States and Canada before arriving in the UK in December. 'Room On Fire' is not out on this side of the pond for another fortnight, which means that most of the audience will be hearing the songs for the very first time tonight. Anticipation is running high both on the streets and in the dressing room. "I just can't wait to play the record in front of people," Julian Casablancas tells *NME*.

"When we're onstage and you see us playing together and you see it all coming together in front of people – man, that is so amazing," raves Albert Hammond Jnr. "What a high that is."

"Touring," adds Nikolai Fraiture, "is something that makes sense to us now."

Outside, police barricades block off the entrance to the street beside the theatre. Several uniformed officers hold the line, joking with each other and glaring at the fans arriving for tonight's performance. The cops have no idea who The Strokes are, but one of them swears he's heard them on Y100 (a local alternative radio station) where they play "all that stuff the kids like".

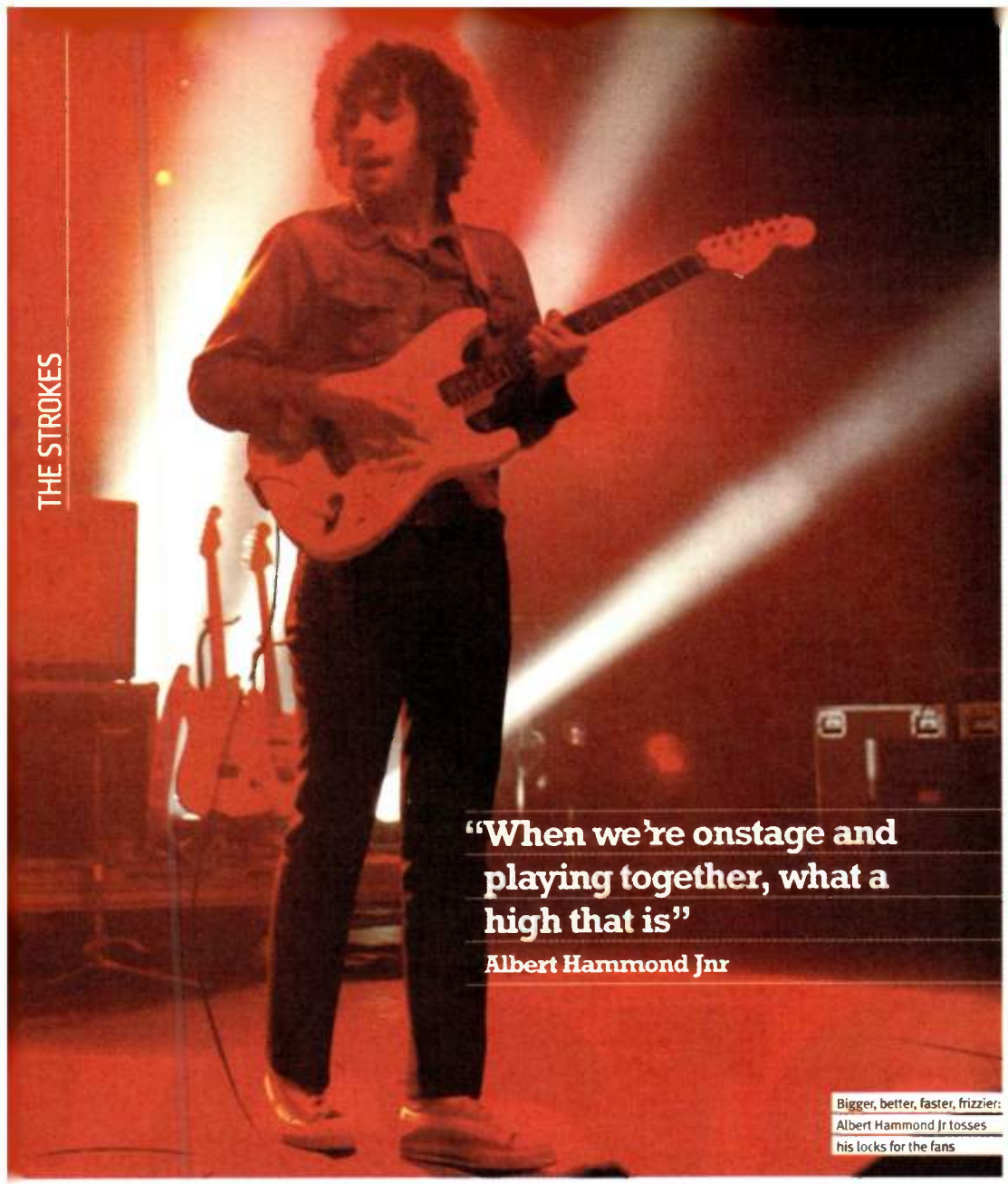
On our way to the box office to collect our tickets we encounter Dawn and Levone. Dawn is here to meet The Strokes and, her friend Levone announces brightly, has had "a little too much to drink right now, and is about to get arrested". We ask Dawn who her favourite Stroke is. "Julian," she says, rolling her eyes and grabbing the wall for support. "Because he's real."

We make it inside as Bob Marley & The Wailers' 'No Woman, No Cry' blares out of the PA. It's the same pre-show mix-tape that The Strokes came onstage to in Japan at August's Summer Sonic festival.

Suddenly the lights cut out and everybody starts screaming as the theme from *Rocky* replaces the reggae and the band's name appears in flashing neon-red block letters behind the stage on two giant screens. "This makes them winners before they've even started!" exclaims the beefy guy in front of us whose fist-pumping demonstrates his appreciation for the band's shout-out to the city's most famous hero. (The *Rocky* movies were all filmed and set in Philadelphia.) The stage is enveloped in a cloud of yellowish smoke as the five Strokes make their way onstage in silhouette.

Julian pulls out his vaguely eastern prayer move that we recognise from 2002's shows, announces that he "fuckin' loves this city, man" and launches into 'Under Control', the forlorn lullaby from 'Room On Fire'. People start to slow dance with one another. The din from the crowd drowns out the sound of the first few verses, and the band has started their second song, 'Alone, Together', before the haze clears and the crowd settles. The boys certainly came dressed as themselves tonight, decked out in the usual varieties of East Village hipster wear – from Fab's worn red T-shirt and jeans to Nikolai's slacks and suit jacket. Julian is wearing a navy gas station attendant's shirt with the sleeves rolled up and a white belt, the end of which hangs down so low it's "begging to be tugged off", according to the lusty-eyed fan two seats over who's swooning like she's seeing The Beatles.

Julian's belt hangs so low it's "begging to be tugged off" according to one lusty fan



"When we're onstage and playing together, what a high that is"

Albert Hammond Jnr

Bigger, better, faster, frizzier: Albert Hammond Jr tosses his locks for the fans

GETTY IMAGES

The 2003 incarnation of The Strokes is flashier and showier than anything we've seen before. Gone is the intensely studied nonchalance in their demeanour and the frenetic sense of urgency in their sound. The Strokes' swagger is now amused and emotive where it once was careful and contained. Julian is down in the trenches shaking the fans' hands, he's up onstage colliding with Albert, and he's engaged enough to ask someone in the front row if she just changed her T-shirt. Nick is seen dropping the stoicism for a moment and grinning, Albert and Fab reciprocate, and all of this takes place in blue, green and pink Technicolor since The Strokes now come bathed in a bona fide rock'n'roll light show. Fans are high-fiving each other and during 'Someday' the sound of the crowd singing the lyric *"I'm working so I won't have to try so hard"* drowns out the lead vocals.

And the show *is* arena-worthy. The band plays 17 songs: nine off 'Room On Fire' and eight off 'Is This It'. Gone are the days of 35-minute Strokes sets: with twice as many songs, the band now has room to manoeuvre. The new songs are so well integrated that fans' heads are bobbing and their lips are moving as though they know the words. Of the new songs, Nikolai says The Strokes' favourite to play live is 'Reptilia': "That feels the fun-est."

This crowd is like no other at any other Strokes show we've ever been to. Mixed in with the industry folks and indie-rock snobs are jocks and freaks and goths and moms and dads and little cute pink'n'blue couples. During 'Hard To Explain' we notice two conspicuously young girls hanging over the balcony and doing the hand jive. Down the central aisle some guy in a cherry red basketball shirt, mohawk and a silver hoop through his nose is hopping up and down like he's doing an Irish jig. Further down we find what might be the most American couple on Earth alternating gnawing on each other's earlobes and beaming at the stage.

Beneath projections of coloured squares that look like Rubik's Cubes and asymmetrical lines of pink and purple lights, they all see that the new Julian Casablancas is a fucking *performer*. He jumps into the crowd during 'New York City Cops', delivering the chorus from the shoulders of some fan. He touches people's hands and faces and lets them help him back onstage, never missing a word. He announces that "besides New York, Philly is the city we've played the most in", coyly dropping his eyes and adding, "I don't want to kiss your asses too much, but I just wanted to say that." And as he musses his elegantly dishevelled hair and mumbles something incomprehensible into the microphone before the next song, a pony-tailed preppie girl on our left moans, "Oh my god". A boy in a baseball cap two rows down from her mutters, "He's so fucking cool." Julian can say whatever he wants. He's friends with the basketball team, and the most popular girl in school has a huge crush on him.

When the band launches into 'Take It Or Leave It' the crowd knows it's the end. One remaining vestige of the old Strokes is their unwillingness to do encores (a rule they break for the first time ever two nights later in Toronto). 'Take It Or Leave It' is faster and filthier than the rest of the set and, from the relentless flashing lights to the gyrating projections on the screens behind the stage, everything seems exaggerated. When Albert jumps up on Fab's drum riser the crowd goes apoplectic. In a cathartic surge of energy the song is over, and with it, the show. Old-fashioned lettering spelling out 'The End' appears on the stage screens and each Stroke makes his particular departure. Albert boisterously blows kisses at the crowd and Fab, the last to leave, dances backwards offstage with a gleeful grin. The lights come up, the crowd exhales, and Sam Cooke's soul classic 'A Change Is Gonna Come' starts playing on the speakers. Prophetic? We hope not.

It's been an hour plus of grade A rock'n'roll thrills. "I'd rather go see a show that at the maximum is an hour," says Nikolai. "An hour and a half is really long. I remember I saw *('70s funksters)* Parliament Funkadelic and it went on for four hours. We were leaving and they were still playing."

"People say 'you don't play enough'," says Albert, "and I'm like, 'We played 50 minutes!' If we played too long it'd be like 'You guys are playing too long.' I'd rather you want more than tire before the last song happens."

MEET ME AT THE STAGE DOOR

Who are you? "Dawn." **Why are you here?** "To meet Julian!" **Are The Strokes the saviours of rock'n'roll?** "*(Slurring)* I'm not going to fucking... we're here man, we're here, aren't we?"

Who are you? "Lauren and Bridgette." **What do you think about The Strokes' new record?** "Bring it on!" **Do you have a favourite Stroke?** Bridgette: "No, but my mom saw Julian on a payphone outside her window and is fully smitten." **What have The Strokes done for you lately?** Bridgette: "My 13 and 14-year-old sisters think I'm super-hip for representing at a Strokes show."

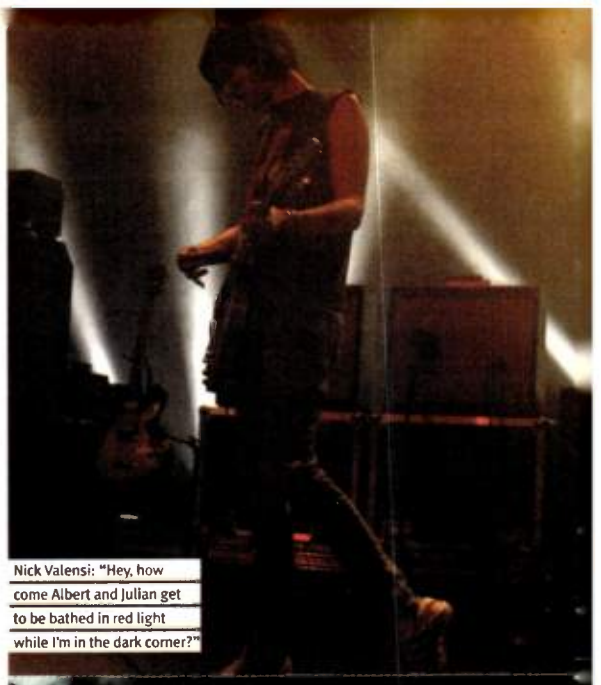
Who are you? "Ethan and David." **Why are you here?** "We have teenagers and a three-year-old... we're a strange family." **What's your message?** David: "There's an ear among an older crowd for The Strokes."

Who are you? "Rachel and Mary. We're sisters!" **What do you fight about?** Rachel: "I think The Strokes are big, but she doesn't agree!" **What don't you fight about?** Mary: "We both agree that we wouldn't wear any underwear if we were going to make out with the band!"

Who are you? "Chris." **Why are you here?** "I'm *(The Strokes' manager)* Ryan Gentles' cousin." **Do you think The Strokes represent your generation?** "I think they represent the generation I *should* have grown up in – somewhere between the '70s and the '80s, or the '60s, like T.Rex." **Er, OK. Do you think The Strokes sound like T.Rex then?** "Uh, no." **What would you do to express your devotion to the band?** "I'd do 69 on 69th Street *(where the Tower Theatre is)*."

NME.COM

Check out the alternative video to The Strokes' '12:51' online now



Nick Valensi: "Hey, how come Albert and Julian get to be bathed in red light while I'm in the dark corner?"

It'll be a miracle if Julian escapes from that crowd with his trousers intact

Back in the lobby, someone is playing 'Last Nite' over the bar's speakers and people are jitterbugging on the marble floor. Outside, even though word is out that the band is on their way back to New York, clumps of boys and girls are collecting around the police barricades separating the crowd from the buses. Not even the rather disturbing sight of a very fucked-up fan sitting defeatedly on the curb in handcuffs, drooling, and surrounded by a ring of policemen can tear the fans' eyes away from the backstage door and the promise of a Strokes sighting.

Courtney, a 20-year old girl from New Jersey, tells us that she doesn't "think the Strokes are into that whole fame thing". She insists she's not into idolatry as if she's hanging out, by accident, by the band's buses, at the end of the night, waiting for them along with girls in fake fur coats wearing fake eyelashes, because she'd just like to "talk to them a little". Hmm...

When we ask Greg, a 17-year-old Strokes fan, what he'd do to show his devotion, he replies with a shrug of his shoulders that he would make Julian a sandwich. We ask him what kind and he says "turkey, turkey with mayo", and looks at us as if he's been lunching with Julian for years. Last time around Julian told us that if we wanted to stand by his side, our head's *"not right"*. This time around (on 'Automatic Stop') he's telling us he's *"not our friend"*, and *"never was"*. It's clear that whatever he says, his disciples disagree. After a show like tonight's, who wouldn't? And it's coming your way soon, beginning in The Strokes' favourite city to play live, Glasgow. "The audiences really give it to you, you have to be on top of your shit," enthused Albert earlier. "They're just a fun crowd, you know? It's the kind of crowd when you walk on with the whole show you're fuckin' pumped and they're pumped and you're all having fun. It's what you always pictured a show to be."

Glasgow. London. Britain. Can you wait?

WRH

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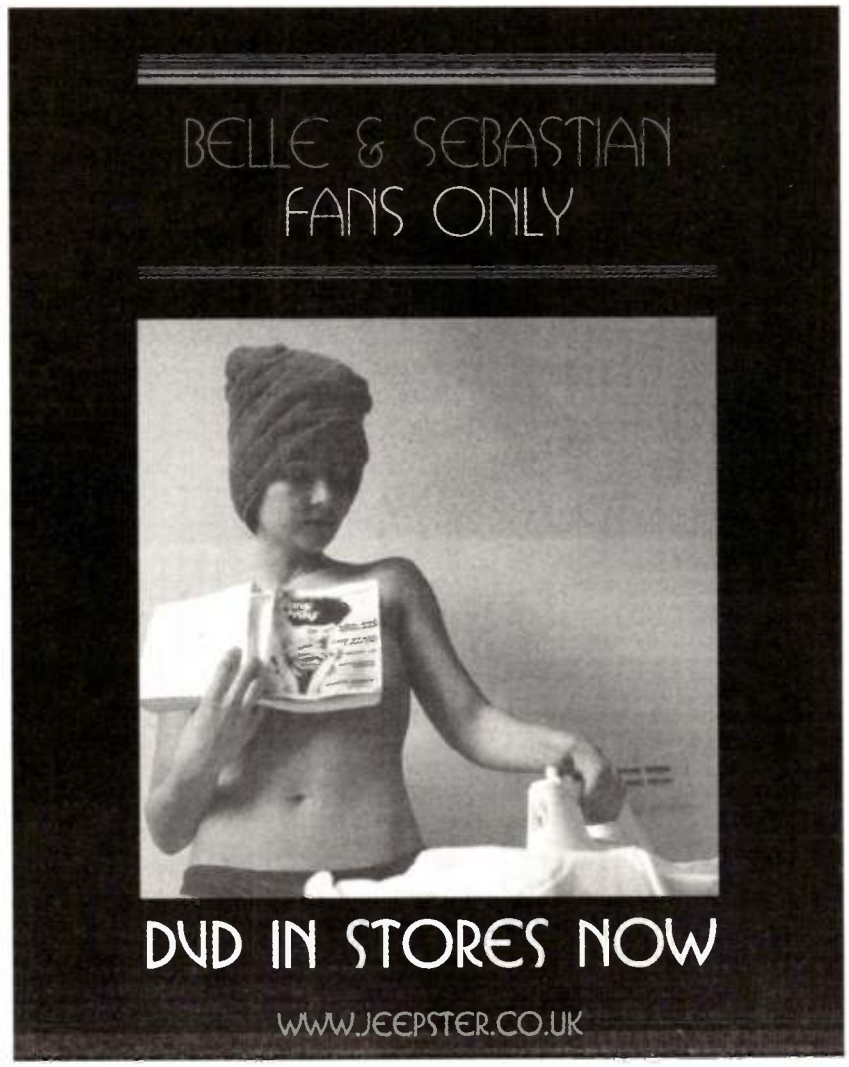

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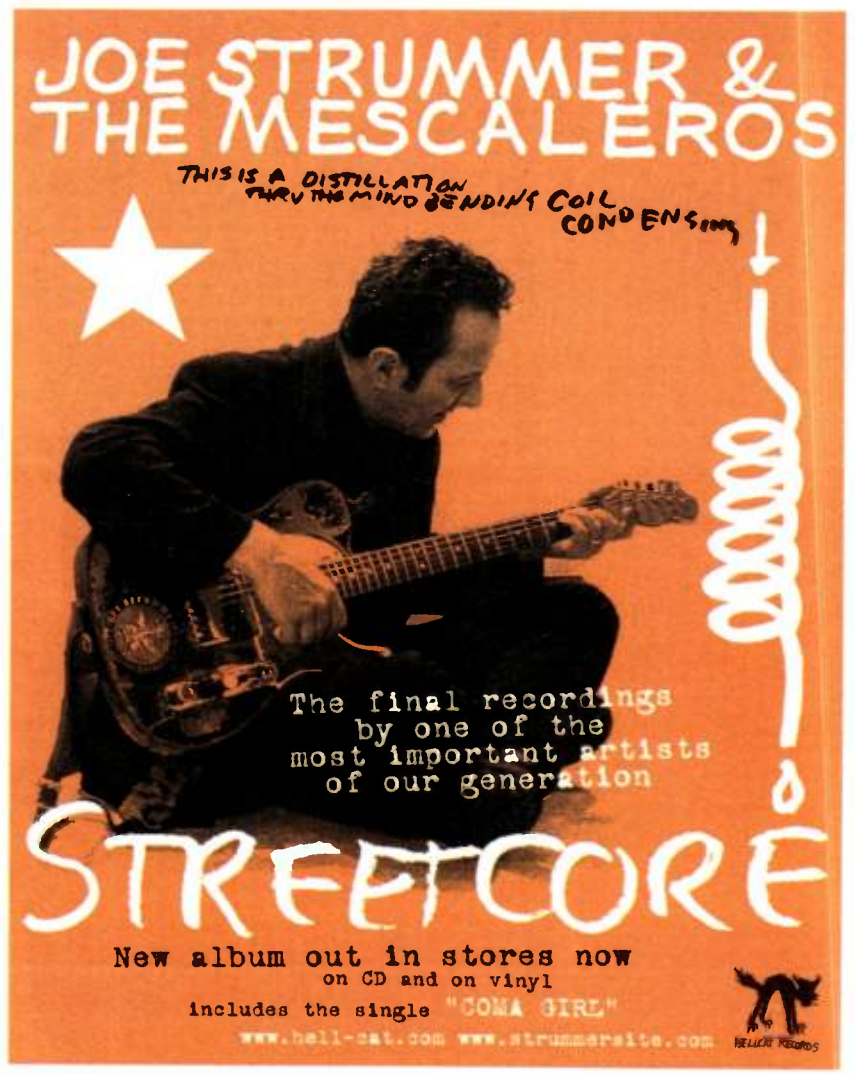
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Dude, where's your catsuits? The Webb Brothers (l-r: Justin Webb, James Webb, Zak Schneider, Neil Ostrovsky and Christiaan Webb) leave the spandex to the experts

The greatest shows on Earth

Booked into venues that can hardly contain them, The Darkness are causing mayhem up and down the country. NME hitches a ride with support band The Webb Brothers to witness the year's most eye-popping tour

Words: **Hannah Verdier** in Leeds

Photographs: **Alex Maguire** in Leeds

Justin Darkness sweats out water as fast as he can drink it

EYEVINE

It's weeks like this that confirm that The Darkness have made it. They're about to play what should have been a fairly standard university tour, but as soon as you arrive in Leeds it's clear that this is as far from ordinary as it gets.

Since announcing these dates back in July, The Darkness have dramatically outgrown the venues. They could sell out the shows many times over, but they haven't cancelled and have only upgraded in a couple of places. Security is understandably tight. Tabloid reporters have been sniffing around and everyone wants a piece of the band of the moment.

But there's no way in. Anyone who tries to get somewhere they shouldn't in the usually low-key Metropolitan University comes up against a wall of security and some mean-looking dogs. Fortunately, *NME* is aboard the tourbus of support band and classic, '60s-sounding 'The Webb Brothers'. They toured Britain with OK:Go back in September, but this time around things are amped up to 11.

"We've played here before," says Christiaan. "But not with this sort of frenzy. There's a different atmosphere on this tour because it was booked before The Darkness took off like a rocket ship. You think, 'Wow, these guys aren't going to be in a venue this size again.'"

The Webb Brothers first met The Darkness two years ago at the South By SouthWest music conference in Austin, Texas. They were stuck without a guitar tech so Dan Hawkins offered to lend his services. "He guitar teched the shit out of our show," laughs James. "Dan was incredible – he was running round like a maniac. He did a fantastic job."

"Dan, if you ever need a new job..." offers Christiaan.

"This tour was booked before The Darkness took off like a rocket ship. You think, 'Wow, they aren't going to play a venue this size again!'" Christiaan Webb

mates of The Darkness, The Webb Brothers, who are right in the thick of the action.

At first, it might seem that The Webb Brothers' laidback psychedelia is at odds with the expectations of tonight's spandex-hungry crowd. "I think there were a lot of question marks in people's minds as to whether we'd cross over to this audience," says guitarist and singer James, the younger of the two brothers. "There was a misconception that Darkness fans are all metalheads, but they're actually just people out to have a good time and they want to be entertained."

"Especially as they have such strong, catchy pop songs," adds Christiaan (singer and keyboard player). "Good bands are good bands."

Chicago's Webb Brothers – the sons of legendary songwriter Jimmy – are on their third album, the

While The Webb Brothers have been – ahem – critically acclaimed, they're a long way from inciting the mainstream adulation The Darkness now command. "We've all worked unpleasant jobs back home and coming here is like a rock'n'roll vacation," says James. "We're living a dream. Amid the drudgery of our lives, England is this sunshiney place. Although the weather is quite shit."

The Darkness' aftershow parties tend to take place in their dressing room. The Webb Brothers have a less traditional way of rounding off a gig. As soon as they come offstage, they set up their own merchandise stall, selling T-shirts they've bought from thrift stores and printed themselves.

Then it's time to down the band's favourite drink, the Mojo Maker – Guinness, whisky and Baileys. (The Darkness favour a Depth Charge – just Guinness and Baileys.) "Drink it quick, before it curdles," instructs Justin Webb, wisely.

On the first night of the tour, The Webb Brothers got to their dressing room and found The Darkness had left a bottle of champagne with a note to welcome them. "The Darkness are the nicest guys I've ever met," says Justin. "And they've got their feet firmly planted on the ground."

"We loved them as soon as we heard the first demo," says James. "But when we talked to people in the music business they were like, 'They're great, but it's not gonna happen.' We were like, 'Are you crazy? Of course it's going to happen!'"

Tonight in Leeds, The Darkness are on form and the venue is dripping with sweat. "Does anyone possess a lighter?" asks Justin before 'Love Is Only A Feeling'. "Employ those lighters now 'cos we're going to do a power ballad." The crowd gleefully obeys, indulging in the kind of swaying, thumbs-in-the-air behaviour that would have got them laughed out of Leeds six months ago.

At the end of 'Love On The Rocks With No Ice', a very sweaty Justin climbs on to a roadie's shoulders for a crowdsurfing guitar solo. He only just manages to make it through a lap of the over-excited crowd unscathed, but you can tell The Darkness are enjoying their last chance to play such small venues as much as everyone else is. As Justin flaps the gold wings of his catsuit and tells the soaking crowd "you've been a fabulous audience", for a band often accused of being a piss-take, his sincerity is obvious. The only nasty taste is left by the bouncers planted in the crowd who dive on anyone who attempts to take a photo.

After the gig, Frankie Poullain wanders out of the dressing room and is besieged by three squealing girls wearing tribute 'taches and bandannas. Outside the venue, a man drops his trousers to reveal a Darkness thong. The Webb Brothers head out into the Leeds night to find a kebab. Christiaan's happy with tonight's events. "On this tour," he grins, "you get a feeling you're part of something special."

JUSTIN TIME...

Christopher Dakin, Luke Brown, Simon Hardcastle, all 19 from Essex

Luke: "It's the catsuit that does it for me. Woah yeah. Justin just makes me laugh."

Simon: "They rock. I saw them supporting Robbie Williams at Knebworth, but we left before he came on. I'm looking forward to 'Love On The Rocks With No Ice' tonight."

Rebecca Hirst, Charlea Worrall, Lizi Hubertson, all 16, from Huddersfield

Rebecca: "The Darkness are outrageous – they're creating a new genre."

Lizi: "They've got an individual sound. I can't wait for 'Get Your Hands Off My Woman'."

Charlea: "And we love Queen!"

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Help to defend the planet from aliens with the *NME.COM* Darkness game!

Liars! Thieves! Electric Six!

As they set out to prove they are anything but two-hit wonders, NME searches to find the twisted truth at the heart of Electric Six

Words: **Rich Pelley** in London

Photographs: **Sam Jones** in London

It's been a tricky year for Electric Six. The downs saw three of the original band members departing (including the legendary Rock'N'Roll Indian), MTV in the US banning the video to 'Gay Bar' and the press labelling them a two-hit novelty act while The Darkness established themselves as the coolest thing in rock. The ups saw three new members (bassist John R Dequindre, lead guitarist The Colonel and rhythm guitarist Johnny Na$hinal), a superb performance at Glastonbury, a huge fanbase in Holland, back-handers to Girls Aloud, offers of marriage from Holly Valance, dinner invitations from the Beckhams and... hang on.

"I'm not going to say we never lie, but I think a lot of the things people think of as lies are actually true," explains frontman Dick Valentine.

"Who's to say what's true and what's not?" adds drummer M.

On the eve of the Six's new single 'Dance Commander', it's time to weed fact from fiction.

'FACT' #1
Jack White sings on 'Danger! High Voltage'

Dick: "We know him and Meg, obviously. We all did our parts of that song separately. I went on vacation and I came back and the vocal was there. I called up Jack and said, 'Was that you?' and he said, 'I don't know!'"

'FACT' #2
The granny you snog in the video is Meg White in disguise

Dick: "I've heard it's Jack in drag. We get all kinds of emails like *'(Affects English accent)* Who is the bird in the video? Is she a bloke?' Her name's Tina, she's very nice, she's British, she lives in Canada and I believe she has grandchildren in England."

'FACT' #3
'Danger! High Voltage' was kept off the Number One spot because sales of 'Sound Of The Underground' by Girls Aloud were rigged

M: "We paid them to beat us. They figured out the illegal aspects of how to increase their sales. We paid each member £10,000."

'FACT' #4
The line *"Let's start a war"* from 'Gay Bar' was a premonition about the war in Iraq

Dick: "No. It was just a way to create excitement about ourselves and about the song – an illusion of excitement that doesn't really exist."

'FACT' #5
When you played on *CD:UK*, ITV1 received 100 complaints from angry parents saying you frightened their children

Dick: *"(Slightly embarrassed)* Um, well, I don't know what the kids are into these days. I've always had a hard time dealing with kids. I don't like the culture."
Johnny: "Scaring children was part of the job description when I joined."

Dick: "I remember on that show this girl comes up and she's like, *'(High pitched voice)* Are you famous?' and I was like, *'(Snappily)* No!' There was a pause and she goes, *'(Cheerily)* Can I have your autograph?'"

'FACT' #6
Three members of the original line-up departed earlier in the year due to body odour differences

M: "If there was a question of body odour it was ours. They quit."

'FACT' #7
You only had time to rehearse three times with the new line-up before you started the US tour

Dick: "We had ten days to get our shit together and play in Indianapolis."
Johnny: "The new guys and myself, we had to learn 19 songs in three rehearsals and I nearly lost my mind. I thought I was going to forget how to drive."
M: "Plus the previous members still had to play out their two-week notice periods."

"We love that band. They're great guys, we've got exactly the same attitudes towards all this" M on The Darkness

'FACT' #8
Shouts for 'Gay Bar' were so loud at Glastonbury that they had to turn up the volume on the Other Stage

Dick: "It's flattering. People think we're upset that people only paid attention to one song. But for five years we were a band that people paid attention to no songs. Everyone thought we were a one-hit wonder with 'Danger! High Voltage'. Now people yell for 'Gay Bar' and we can throw in 'Danger! High Voltage' and go, 'What do you think of that one too?'"
Be nice to do a hat trick with the new single then?
Dick: "Nine months ago I was working at Starbucks. So for any song to be on Radio 1, no matter where it charts, is a gift from heaven."

'FACT' #9
New Single 'Dance Commander' is about gay astronauts

Dick: "I like that idea, but it's not. I intended to have a song where you go into the studio and, like, Kylie Minogue calls you up and says, 'I want to be a part of this', Sophie Ellis-Bextor calls and says, 'I want to be a part of this.' But that never happened."
Maybe Kyles and Soph didn't have your number.
Dick: "Oh, they had it. I'm not hard to track down."

'FACT' #10
MTV in the US wouldn't play 'Gar Bar' because they don't like you

Dick: "They didn't play much of 'Danger! High Voltage' either. We're not part of the cultural fabric there."

Is it hard to succeed in the US if you can't be pigeonholed?
Dick: "Kings Of Leon are in the same boat, Hot Hot Heat are in the same boat. You have to have a degree of success elsewhere first."
M: "We would love to break America. I don't respect the industry over there, but it's still home. I would like to be on the cover of *People* magazine so that my mother will see it."
Not the same showing your mum *NME* then?
M: "I have a stack of *NME*s three feet tall at my parents' from high school. But it's not the same. 'Mum, you remember that pile of magazines in the basement? We just got a two-page story in there.'"

'FACT' #11
You are massive in Holland

Dick: *"(Breaking into Sean Connery impersonation)* That's exciting."
Er, any idea why?
Dick: "It's probably the sensational nature of our show. There are also five non-stop flights a day from Detroit to Amsterdam. There's a huge Dutch population in Michigan. I think they understand us."

'FACT' #12
You know loads about football

Dick: "Er, yeah. I'm a huge Tottenham fan."
Who's their captain?
Dick: "Um, the Argentinian guy."
Who's their goalkeeper?
Dick: "Er."
Explain the offside rule using this glass and these salt and pepper pots.
Dick: "Well. Here's the defender *(pepper)*, here's the defender *(salt)*. This is the goal *(glass)*. If I'm right here *(in front of salt and pepper)* and the ball's back here *(behind salt and pepper)* I'm offside. There you go."

'FACT' #13
You've co-written Holly Valance's new album. You're going out with her. And you're getting married

Dick: "You'll have to ask John."
John: *"(Casually)* We got together and wrote some songs. It was a record company thing, her record company contacted me."
Dick: "She was at our last show. We've got a three-year plan and Holly Valance definitely fits into that plan."
M: "That's a pretty exclusive rumour, isn't it? That we have anything to do with Holly Valance."

'FACT' #14
You are going to grow Freddie Mercury moustaches for the video of your Christmas single, 'Radio Ga Ga'

Dick: "Definitely. It never registered in the States, we thought it was an obscure Queen song. The first time we played here everyone joined in with the handclaps and I was completely amazed."
Are you worried about going head to head with The Darkness?
Dick: "On *Top Of the Pops* I saw the bass player from The Darkness in the toilet. He was like, 'You're

The joy of Six: the new-look Electric Six (from top) Tait Nucleus, The Colonel, Dick Valentine, Johnny NaShinal, John R Dequindre and M (right)

"People think we're upset that people only paid attention to one song. But for five years people paid attention to no songs" Dick Valentine

releasing 'Radio Ga Ga'. Good luck, I hope it can go One or Two.' And I was like, 'Man, I'm past all that, I don't care if it goes 19.'"
M: "We love that band. They're great guys, we've got exactly the same attitudes towards all this, they're just great."

'FACT' #15
You don't like *NME* because we said you are a manufactured novelty act

Dick: "People can write what they like. What matters is family. Staying home, going out for pie with Mum and Dad, discussing the day's events."
Are your parents proud?
Dick: "No. They don't know what I'm doing. They probably still think I work in Starbucks."

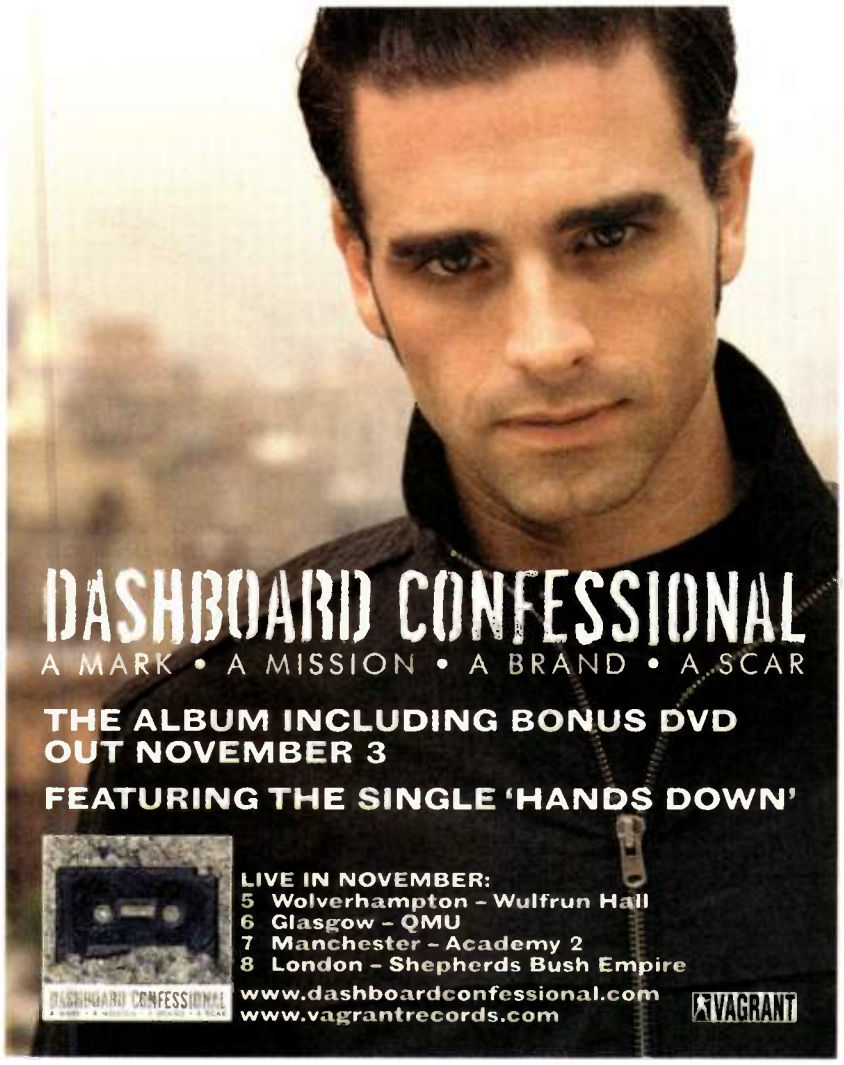
'FACT' #16
You are a manufactured novelty act

Dick: "We started that rumour ourselves. But we're not. We came together through the love of jamming. Lyrics are secondary in this band. It's the noodle that really gets us out there. We do a lot of noodling."
Johnny: "Once 'Electric Six On Ice' comes out, then they'll realise just how serious we are."
M: "There is a sense of humour. We're not ignoring a huge aspect of who we are but we're not sitting down to write rock songs that make people laugh. We're sitting down to write songs that rock."

'FACT' #17
You're all gay

Dick: "Yeah, actually one of our departing guitar players was so depressed by that he would take the microphone like every other show and go, 'We're not gay.' It's fine. It helps if people think you are gay."

NME.COM
Check out new video to 'Dance Commander' online now!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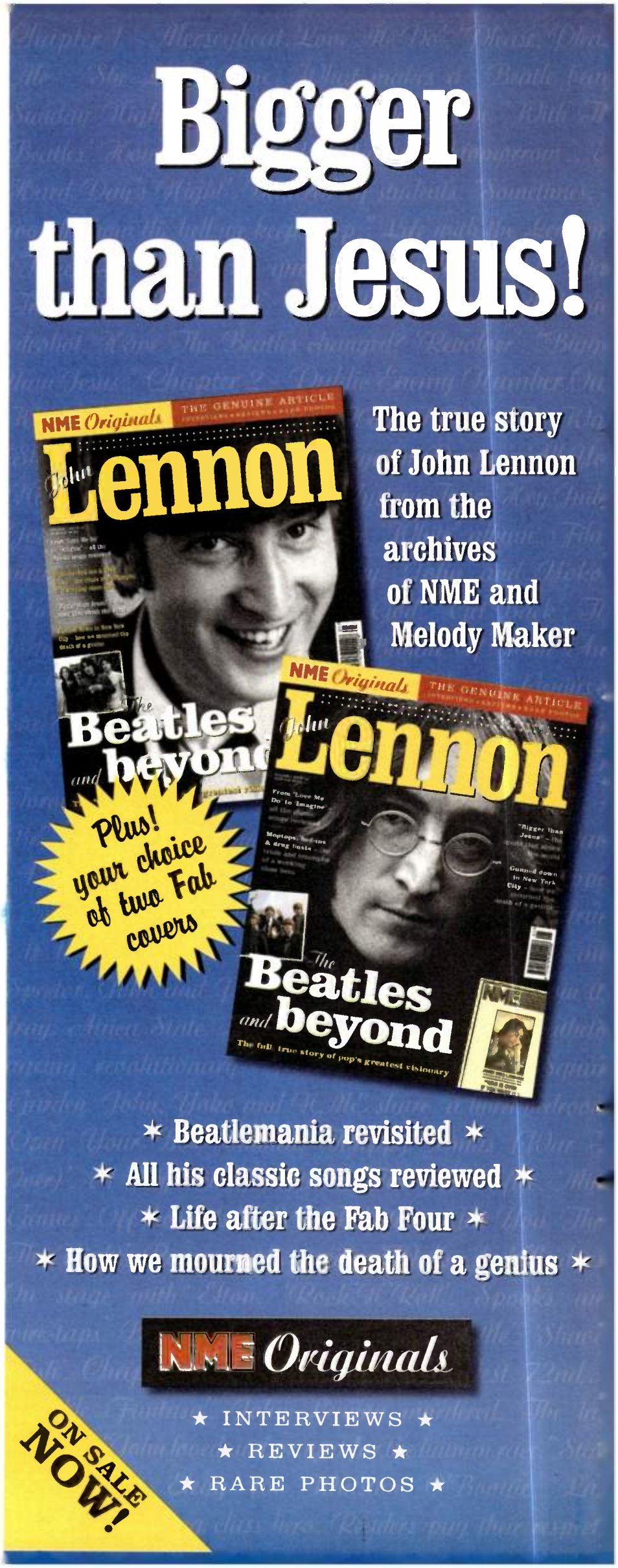
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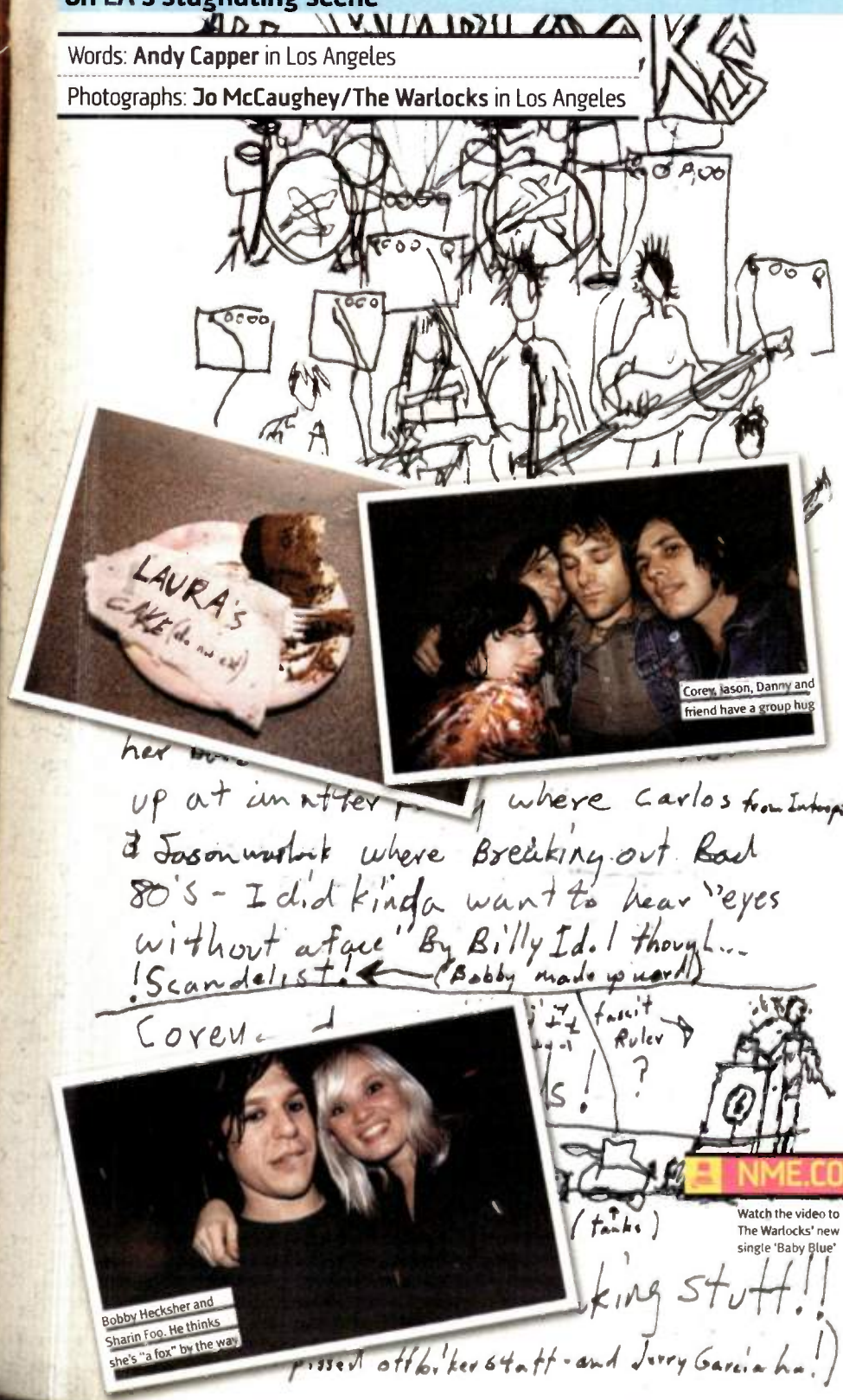
To live and die (of boredom) in LA

Something strange is happening in California. Arnie's the new governor and The Warlocks are falling out with BRMC on LA's stagnating scene

Words: **Andy Capper** in Los Angeles

Photographs: **Jo McCaughey/The Warlocks** in Los Angeles


LAURA's CAKE
Corey, Jason, Danny and friend have a group hug
Bobby Hecksher and Sharin Foo. He thinks she's "a fox" by the way
NME.COM
Watch the video to The Warlocks' new single 'Baby Blue'

Los Angeles is fucking weird and everybody under the age of 30 should leave.

In the week that Arnold Schwarzenegger (star of *The Last Action Hero*) was elected Governor of California, *NME* got a taste of life as a young, hip rock'n'roll fan in LA and it's bullshit. It takes an hour to get anywhere, you can't smoke indoors, you can't drink without yellow wristbands proving you're over 21 and the ecstasy barely works! Thank fuck for cocaine, methadone pills and amazing-looking models, otherwise this trip would have been totally unbearable. OK...

An hour after getting off our plane, we drive across town to the Star Shoes club on Hollywood Boulevard. Carlos from Interpol is DJing. Everybody's standing around looking vacant and moody while a band called The Adored play a set of wired disco punk – the kind that the DFA popularised two years ago in NYC.

Among the audience pretending to enjoy the music is Kelly Osbourne (yawn) and Chris Hathwell from LA's main hipster attraction Moving Units. Oh look! It's the charming Daniel Kessler. What else? Just tons of bored rich kid hipster groupies. The whole vibe is as empty and uninviting as Thom Yorke's underpants.

The next day, we're sat in the darkened backroom of The Warlocks' tourbus with the pasty, dark-eyed and limp-wristed rake of a singer Bobby Hecksher, a barely-living example of what living in LA hipsterland for too long can do to a man.

"Heyyy. You wanna whiskey and coke? A beer?" he rasps as he pops a couple of paracetamols down his throat and teases his scraggy hair, looking like Edward Scissorhands minus scissors plus heroin.

You can't blame him for feeling sick, though. Since they released their 'Phoenix' album in the US late last year, the band have been touring every day without a break. Unsurprisingly for eight uppity LA hipsters who've never really made much of a dent on the hit parade, it's not been without a few tears.

A few months ago tambourine player and organist Laura Grisby briefly left the band for her old job selling vintage T-shirts, while guitarist Jeff Levitz left the band for good to pursue a spiritual journey (or something).

As well as having to deal with the fact that the early promise they showed is dissolving because they're not always very good live, The Warlocks have also endured on-the-road traumas like hurricanes in Washington DC, a tourbus crash and – worse – a near-fatal meeting with '70s arena rocker Peter Frampton in New Orleans. (He's a huge fan.)

Despite all the drama, Bobby's in a fairly buoyant mood and is keen to talk about his new songs 'War Horse' and 'We Love Star Power' and how they're "awwww... dreamier I would say. It's hard, y'know, to be dreamy..." *NME* smiles sympathetically, as if we know what the fuck he's talking about.

NME: (Exhaling loudly) OK, have you got any drugs?

"I always avoid the drugs questions. I don't think it's really my place to talk about drug use."

We got ecstasy last night and it was a waste of time...

"Yeah I know! I don't think Americans should take it! Ha ha."

Can you get us something to lift the empty, depressing LA vibes?

"Oh dude. I like LA."

Dude, your biggest band is the Red Hot Chili Peppers....

"Well, have you been to the Detroit scene? Playing there is like extracting teeth. I like the music, The Von Bondies and The White Stripes, but the rest of that shit, you can take it..."

Talking of extracting teeth, rumour was that the last few weeks on the road with BRMC wasn't exactly painless either.

"It was really fucking hard," Bobby whines. "Somehow BRMC surround themselves with a bullshit hurricane of people and there was always some new drama going on."

"Sometimes I just wake up and think, 'What the fuck am I still doing here?'"

Bobby Hecksher

You were stealing each other's hairspray?

"We'd have no soundcheck every night! I mean if you're going to do a four-hour soundcheck then I'm cool with that..."

BRMC soundcheck for *four hours*?

"Yeah."

They're a three-piece!

"Yeah. I know. It *boggles* the mind."

There was shouting and screaming?

"Yeah. There was at that one."

Do The Warlocks shout and scream a lot?

"Yeah – we had a fight yesterday. Bobby *(Martine, bass)* and Jason *(Anchondo, drums)* were fighting and they punched a hole in the hotel room wall. Sometimes I just wake up and think, 'What the fuck am I still doing here?'"

The next night, we go out to The Three Of Clubs, another hipster hangout. People are dancing to the worst funk trance electro that *NME*'s heard since we got stuck in Glastonbury's Lost Vagueness field, but nobody's having a good time.

The Warlocks and touring buddies Interpol have long since left town and tomorrow night Tim Burgess is playing a solo set at the Troubadour. The day after that, the Terminator will take over the city.

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HOTTEST NEW RELEASES

	KEYWORD
Amy Studt - **Under The Thumb**	thumb
Athlete - **You Got The Style**	yougot
Basement Jaxx - **Lucky Star**	lucky
Beyonce Crazy - **In Love**	inlove
Blu Cantrell ft Sean Paul - **Breathe**	breathe
Blue - **Guilty**	guilty
Dizzee Rascal - **Fix Up, Look Sharp**	fixup
DMX - **Where The Hood At**	hood
Electric Six - **Dance Commander**	commander
Elton John - **Are You Ready For Love**	forlove
Elvis Presley - **Rubberneckin'**	rubberneckin
Evanescence - **Going Under**	under
Fatman Scoop - **Be Faithful**	faithful
Good Charlotte - **The Anthem**	anthem
Jamelia - **Superstar**	superstar
Justin Timberlake - **Rock Your Body**	body
Kelis - **Milkshake**	milkshake
Kevin Lyttle - **Turn Me On**	meon
Kylie Minogue - **Slow**	slow
Limp Bizkit - **Eat You Alive**	youalive
Linkin Park - **Numb**	numb
Lumidee - **Never Leave You**	leaveyou
Madonna - **Nothing Fails**	fails
Mark Ronson - **Oh Wee**	wee
Milk & Sunshine - **Let The Sunshine In**	letthe
Muse - **Time is Running Out**	timeis
Nickelback - **Someday**	someday
Outkast - **Ghetto Music**	ghetto
Pharrell Williams ft Busta Rhymes - **Light Your Ass...**	ass
Pink - **Trouble**	trouble
Placebo - **Special Needs**	needs
Radiohead - **Go To Sleep**	tosleep
Rishi Rish fr Jay Sean - **Dance With You**	rishi
Robbie Williams - **Sexed Up**	sexed
Sean Paul - **Like Glue**	likeglue
Stereophonics - **Maybe Tomorrow**	maybe
Sugababes - **Hole In The Head**	holein
The Coral - **Pass It On**	passit
The White Stripes - **I Just Don't Know What To Do...**	todo
Travis - **Reoffender**	reoffender
Wayne Wonder - **Friend Like Me**	likeme
The Chemical Brothers ft Flaming Lips - **Golden Path**	path
XTM ft DJ Chucky - **Fly On The Wings Of Love**	flyon

8181 GREATEST TONES

	KEYWORD
50 Cent - **In Da Club**	club
50 Cent - **21 Questions**	questions
Audio Bully's - **Way Too Long**	waytoo
Blur - **Crazy Beat**	beat
Busta Rhyme ft Mariah Carey - **I Know What...**	youwant
Coldplay - **Clocks**	clocks
Dizzee Rascal - **Fix Up, Look Sharp**	fixup
Electric Six - **Gay Bar**	gaybar
Eminem - **Lose Yourself**	lose
Evanescene - **Bring Me To Life**	bring
Faithless - **Insomnia**	insomnia
Gary Numan - **In Cars**	incars
Gorillaz - **Clint Eastwood**	clint
Junior Jack - **E-Samba**	esamba
Junior Senior - **Move Your Feet**	feet
Junkie XL vs Elvis - **A Little Less...**	conversation
Kings Of Leon - **Molly's Chamber**	mollys
Ladytron - **Seventeen**	seventeen
Led Zeppelin - **Stairway To Heaven**	stairway
Linkin Park - **Crawling**	crawling
Missy Elliot - **Get Ur Freak On**	freak
New Order - **Blue Monday**	monday
Oasis - **Wonderwall**	wonderwall
Polyphonic Spree - **Soldier Girl**	soldier
R Kelly - **Ignition**	ignition
Red Hot Chilli Peppers - **Universally Speaking**	speaking
Royksopp - **Sparks**	sparks
Sean Paul - **Get Busy**	getbusy
Super Furry Animals - **Golden Retriever**	golden
Supergrass - **Rush Hour**	rush
The Jam - **A Town Called Malice**	malice
The Rapture - **House Of Jealous Lovers**	houseof
The White Stripes - **7 Nation Army**	army
U2 - **Beautiful Day**	u2

8181 FILM & TV THEMES

	KEYWORD
A-Team - **TV Theme**	ateam
Dukes of Hazard - **TV Theme**	dukes
Eastenders - **TV Theme**	eastenders
Itchy & Scratchy - **TV Theme**	itchy
Jackass - **TV Theme**	jackass
James Bond - **Film Theme**	bond
Knight Rider - **TV Theme**	knight
Looney Toons - **TV Theme**	looney
Mission Impossible - **Film Theme**	mission
Only Fools and Horses - **TV Theme**	horses
Pink Panther - **TV Theme**	panther
Rocky - **Film Theme**	rocky
Scooby Doo - **TV Theme**	scooby
Sex & The City - **TV Theme**	city
South Park - **TV Theme**	southpark
Star Wars - **Film Theme**	star
The Flintstones - **TV Theme**	flintstones
The Good The Bad & The Ugly - **Film Theme**	ugly
The Great Escape - **TV Theme**	escape
The Muppets - **TV Theme**	muppets

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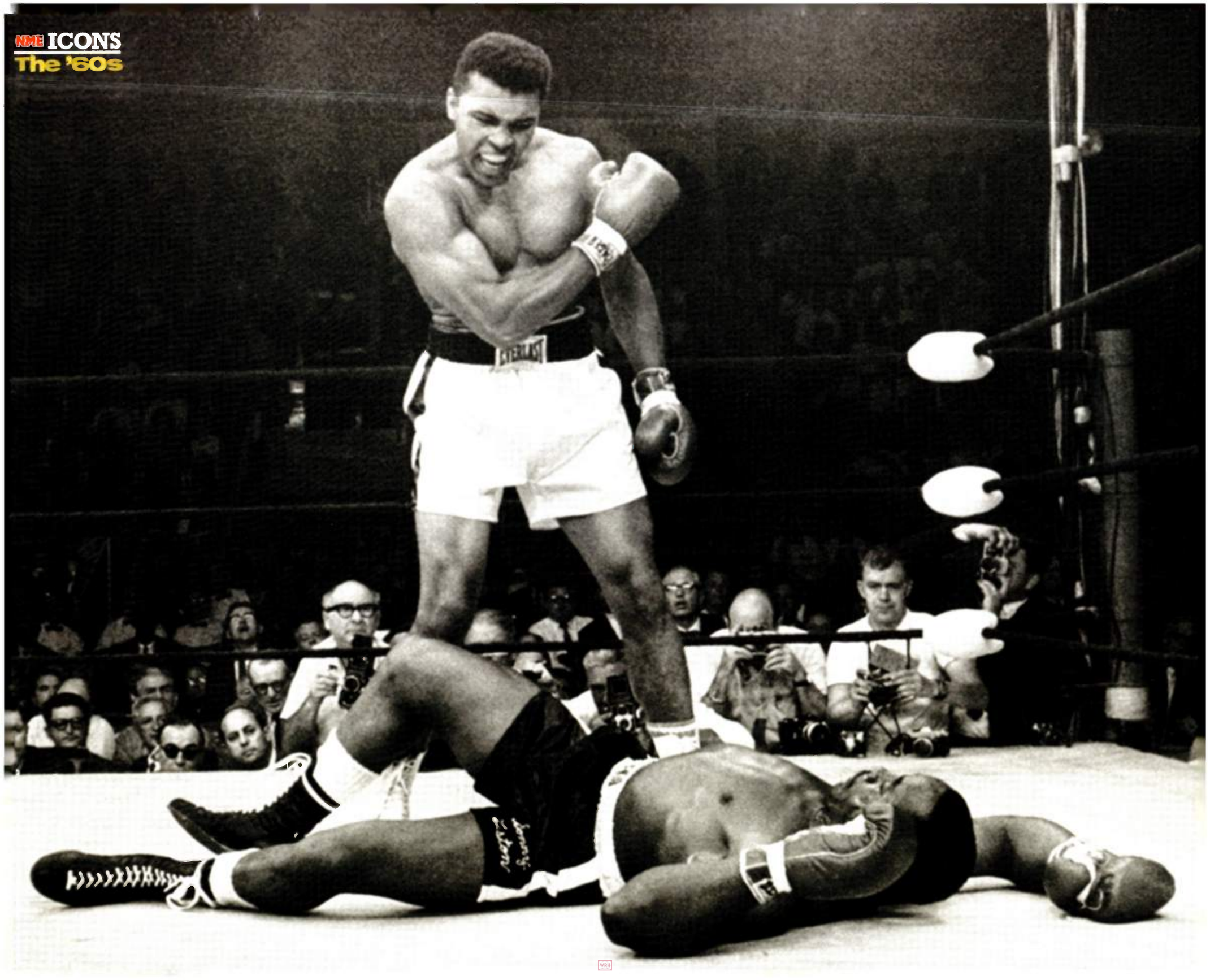
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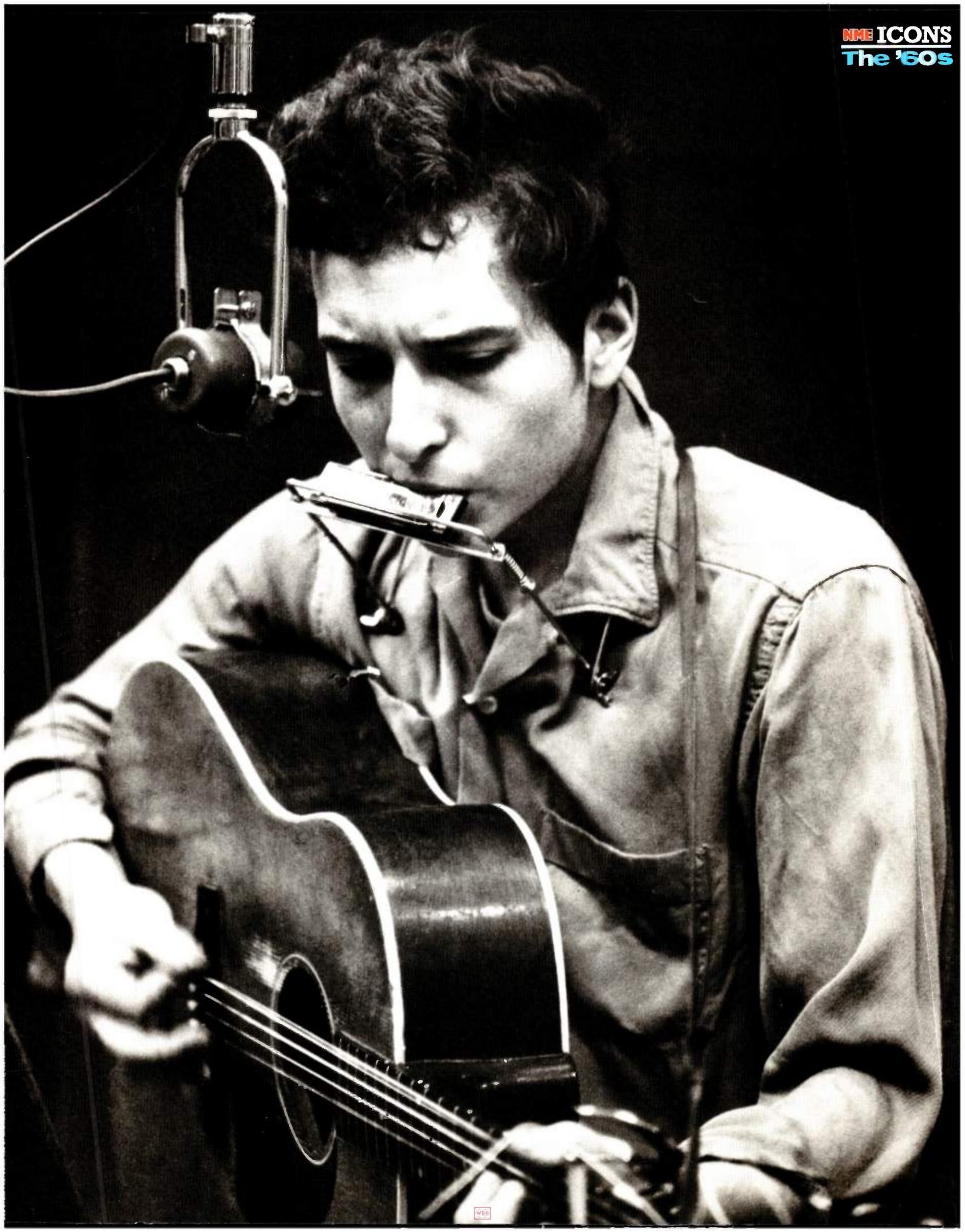


The last romantic

Cole Porter, George Gershwin... not names you'd normally see in NME, but Rufus Wainwright is a bit different. Back from the brink of self-destruction, he's created not one but two albums of poperatic genius

Words: **Pat Long** in London

Photographs: **Mark Eilbeck** in London

Groom on fire: Rufus Wainwright gets in an altar-ed state

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

When most stars leave rehab, they forsake the sauce and retreat to their country pile for the quiet life, calling up Narcotics Anonymous in a sweating panic whenever they feel guilty about needing to pop a Nurofen. Not so elfin singer-songwriter genius Rufus Wainwright. No, after he reached that Twelfth Step the adoptive New Yorker completed his reintegration into sober society by listening to a *lot* of opera, taking advice from Elton John, dressing up in a suit of armour, and casually bashing out two albums of lush orchestral pop magic.

'Want One' is the first volume of the set ('Want Two' follows next year), a great narcissistic swirl inspired by Cole Porter, George Gershwin, classical music and Brian Wilson's swoonier ballads. Rufus either calls it "popera" or "baroque'n'roll", which basically means that he's not shy of a bit of shameless over-egging wherever possible. While some of his Lower East Side neighbours have been spending a lot of money making their records sound as self-consciously gritty as possible, Wainwright overlaid 350 vocal tracks on top of vast flamboyant brass, woodwind and strings. That 'Want One' features a tuba solo is notable in itself. That Wainwright was able to drag himself back from the brink of drug-aided self-destruction to make it is even more remarkable.

Today he's in a swank canal-side café in north London drinking bottled water. Despite the fact that a) we're indoors and b) it's a grey autumn day, Rufus is wearing black wraparound sunglasses which he does not remove. "This record," he trills, "is about the return of freedom and idealism and justice. But it's also about celebrating my return from *gay hell*..."

The son of two renowned folksters – Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle – when Rufus was a baby his dad wrote a tribute to the prodigious amount of time Wainwright Jr spent suckling at his mother's breast. The long-term emotional effects of the song – called 'Rufus Is A Tit Man' – remain uncharted. Raised on a diet of folk, classical and opera ("one night I heard Verdi's *Requiem* and from then on I was hooked"), he was also brought up among a flamboyant, arty family. "I remember being at home when I was a very young kid and my mom walked in and said, 'You know what? There *is* no business like showbusiness.'" In fact, Rufus is one of the only people *NME* has ever met who proudly refers to a life spent either in "showbusiness" or, more quaintly, "on the stage". His first two albums, meanwhile, cultivated an image of a wan, tortured artist, alone in his garret with a stack of old Edith Piaf records and some cheap red wine, too sensitive for the real world. It was a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"I'd been drinking for years," he admits with slight relish, "and then there was the pot and a little sprinkling of coke a few times a week and that was all fine and dandy for a long time until crystal meth started to appear more. Crystal meth's a drug that's just *ravaging* the gay community in America. It really allows you to let out your Mr Hyde. And that happened in the last week before I went into rehab; I went blind for a couple of hours. Every time I brushed my teeth I would spit up blood. Then I started seeing things, seeing people in the corner who weren't there. I'd start screaming. I lost my mind and I wasn't sure if I'd come back or not."

"There was the pot and a little sprinkling of coke and that was all fine and dandy until crystal meth started to appear"

Luckily, Rufus had the money to enter rehab, as well as the support of some celeb friends, namely the one man whose recorded output makes 'Want One' look the very model of M&S Y-fronted hetero conformity.

"Elton's been very helpful for me during this whole period of getting my act together, because he went through it too in the '70s. He said, 'Fuck your career, fuck your album, fuck your photoshoot, take care of yourself first.'"

Which is good advice, whether it comes from middle-aged men called Reg or not. Plus, the time spent in rehab allowed Rufus to clear his head and marshall his creative instincts. Which is, oddly, why he's pictured dressed like an exhibit from the Tower Of London (full armour, broadsword) on 'Want One"s sleeve. Inspiration came from frilly 19th-century painting school the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, something you can definitely never say about Jet.

"I wanted to base the cover on a painting by Edward Burne-Jones or Rosetti or Millais," he says. "There's a certain aspect of the trials and tribulations that I went through and the way I had to protect myself from the evil drug dealer dragon. I had to really muster up a bold sense of valour and compassion to get through. Things that are really *missing* today."

Another creative spur was jealousy at the level of attention his NY neighbours were receiving. "I know The Strokes and they're really nice guys, but they were just being lauded as this instant classic band and I had put a lot of work in and I was still... *poor*," he laughs.

Still, if the world has any sense, the 'Want' records will finally see Rufus attain the status, money and recognition he desires, content in the knowledge that rehab and his gay hell are behind him.

"I intend to make forays into the world of opera and theatre," he grins, "but these two albums as a set really are the flowering of my pop artistry. This is my masterpiece."

THE FAIRY GODMOTHER

THE STARS ELTON JOHN'S COUNSELLED

Robbie Williams
Elton provided a shoulder to cry on during his fat, druggy post-Take That stage

Stephen Gately
Elt invited him to stay after Stephen got dumped by a) his record label and b) his fella

Posh and Becks
Often shelter from the paparazzi at Elt's pad in the south of France, as did Liz Hurley straight after the birth of Damien

Ryan Adams
Says he goes to Elton for relationship advice

Courtney Love
Regained face by performing with Elt a couple of days after she was arrested for misbehaving on a plane

NME.COM

Hear tracks from Rufus' new album 'Want One' online now

Photolovestory

Picture this! The Kills talk simmering sexual tension, voodoo and weird insects as they journey to the real dark heart of America

Words: **Barry Nicolson** in Milwaukee/Chicago

Photographs: **Andy Fallon** in Chicago

NME is sitting in a bar in downtown Milwaukee with Jamie Hince and Alison Mosshart, the two human cigarette factories better known as Hotel and VV respectively, and collectively as The Kills. Steph, Milwaukee's premier indie kid, rabid Kills fan and barmaid in the Palomino bar – a smoky joint that you half-expect action chump Chuck Norris to walk into and start chucking tables around – is throwing complimentary margaritas at us like they're going out of fashion. Which, oddly enough, they never do.

Despite the river of free booze, however, Hotel and VV remain utterly composed. Single-handedly puffing their own hole in Milwaukee's ozone layer, they ruffle their hair and give off the air of a band who would never, *ever* do anything so wantonly daft and unforgivably uncool as, say, fall over pissed. Frankly, intimidating would be an understatement.

Suddenly, Hotel leans over conspiratorially and pulls something out of a beaten black leather case. "Check this out," he grins. "I found this when we were playing a show the other day..."

Our interest is aroused; what kind of dark shit do a band as mysterious as The Kills unearth in sleepy Midwestern towns? Actually, the piece of paper he thrusts into our hand is a personal ad from someone looking to rid themselves of some unwanted livestock – "two Fainting Goats, no longer needed by owner, available to highest bidder", to be exact.

"I guess their only purpose in life is to faint, get back up, and faint again," shrugs Hotel, the friendly, approachable Kill. "But the ad was so weird that I just had to take it."

"I've heard about these goats all my life but I never thought they were real," chips in VV, the slightly more guarded, weirder Kill, who often takes to spinning round on the spot, ever-present ciggie in hand. "I don't know what function they serve. Maybe it's for some kind of fucked circus or something..."

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to life on the road with the Bonnie & Clyde of rock'n'roll. By the time we stagger off 48 hours later we'll have taken in two cities, chronic self-doubt, simmering sexual frustration and black magic. And that's only the half of it.

Milwaukee is a strange city. The most positive thing you can say about it is that it's a high school shooting spree waiting to happen. It's a 20-minute walk down the highway from our dusty roadside motel to civilisation. What lies *up* the highway, though, is anyone's guess.

"It's so alien to me here," Hotel laments. "I've no idea how people actually end up living in places like this."

Famously, The Kills' first ever tour was a self-organised jaunt around the fleapits of America – just Hotel, VV, their trusty drum machine in a beaten-up old van; no tour managers, press officers, A&R men or journalists. It was a tour that afforded an unheard-of freedom, a freedom that the band's success has ensured is now gone for good.

"It's so different now," sighs VV. "There are more people touring with us than there are people in the band. It's strange; there's a part of that old fun that can never disappear, though."

"We tried to have a break for two weeks," adds Hotel. "But I realised that I have no concept of what a person does at home. I would sit down, stand up, lie on the bed, stand up and sit down again. I'm full of shit about all the romance of being on the road. I still think it's really important. I just know we won't ever get it back again. Those days when it was just me and VV were the best days of my life, and they're gone forever."

So, The Kills began as rock'n'roll outlaws, hotfooting it across America under their own steam, and ended up as mollycoddled rock stars, right?

Wrong. We're talking about Britain's most Bohemian band, and that means they hit the road with all the powders, pills and potions rock'n'roll will afford them. Not to mention the danger that comes with the territory.

"I went for a piss in the bushes in Portland," says Hotel. "When I was getting ready to go to bed, I found that a tick had lodged itself in my side. It was one of the scariest things that's ever happened to me."

"He was freaking out!" giggles VV. "He gouged a massive piece of flesh out of his side to get this thing out. It looked like a bullet wound."

"I went for a piss in the bushes in Portland, Oregon and found that a tick lodged itself in my side" Hotel

The Kills are full of anecdotes like this, reeling off stories about the time they were attacked by a chair-swinging maniac in Paris. But who's the biggest weirdo they've met on tour so far?

"Definitely the weirdest – and coolest – person we've met is this guy called Richard Shaw," says VV. "We met him walking down the street in Belgium. He was wearing this amazing outfit: silk shirt and pants, Gucci watch, out in his bare feet. He looks about 30, but he's actually more like 50. He came to the gig and kept in touch with us, told us our band changed his life. He sends us weird powders and grasses for us to smoke..."

"He sends us loads of books, too," interrupts Hotel. "Books on black magic – you know, the really serious stuff. This isn't your *Ladybird Book Of Black Magic* or anything like that. This is heavy stuff."

Ah yes, black magic. The legendary leisure option of decadent rock pigs like Jimmy Page, Marilyn Manson and now, erm, Jamie Hince. In a recent interview, he admitted that he'd dabbled in voodoo, making a doll of some poor bastard he'd taken a dislike to, stabbing it in the arm.

"I did do it," sighs Hotel. "I just regret admitting it! The person I did it to knows. Did it work? There were certain things related to his arm that happened afterwards, you know? But I'm not sure. You just don't wanna go stabbing it in the head or something..."

NME.COM

Listen to the new Kills single 'Pull A U' online now

The show later that night in Milwaukee's Cactus Club is fine, if a little unremarkable. The sound isn't great and the crowd aren't really sure how to take The Kills. The Midwest is a notoriously difficult area to crack – bereft as it is of the West Coast's rich rock'n'roll tapestry, or NYC's fashion-friendly vibe. God knows how Junior Senior will go down next week, but for The Kills this show is something of a score draw.

"Sometimes you wake up in the morning," explains Hotel the next night in Chicago, "and you realise you've been high every night for a week and you're like, 'Uuuuugghh, let's just be normal again.' Last night was a tired night. It felt like hard work."

Milwaukee and Chicago are separated by a mere two-hour drive but in terms of culture, they're worlds apart. Chicago has a little more going on, and is more hip to the scuzzy shag-rock of The Kills. As Hotel and VV virtually dry-hump each other onstage during a feral 'Black Rooster', the audience feel like witnesses to an intense, sensual and very private performance.

All of which begs the question: if The Kills aren't going out with each other, do they at least get jealous when they see groupies flirting with their bandmate?

A pause so pregnant its waters break follows.

"Yes," says VV, sternly. "I don't want to talk about it, but the answer is yes. And that's it."

"You do?" blurts a visibly uncomfortable Hotel. "This is definitely an odd question..."

"You have to answer it though," implores VV.

"Yes," he replies under his breath. "I do sometimes..."

The fact that they want to fuck each other aside, the other main talking point about The Kills is their likeness to fellow denizens of sexually ambiguous, bass-free sleaze rock, The White Stripes. It's a blessing and a curse.

At a recent US show, the Stripes covered The Kills' 'Superstition'. VV and Hotel were too busy drinking Jack and Meg's rider to catch it, but you can tell they're pretty chuffed. Aside from the fact that the two bands are mates, it's also a two-fingered salute to the critics who claim The Kills are no more than a poor man's Stripes.

"It was really cool of them to do that," enthuses VV. "Both bands get labelled with that whole thing..."

"Everyone's looking for something immediate with a very short impact," continues Hotel. "People join bands because they do a lot of unreasonable, nonsensical things. One of the nonsensical things we're trying to do is to be something important. We probably probably won't ever be famous, or get our dues or whatever. But that doesn't matter. We're always gonna be... under-appreciated, and people don't want that. They want posters on their wall."

He's probably right. Like the Velvets and Royal Trux before them, The Kills are a band's band, a law unto themselves and utterly unsuitable for stardom. All of which serves to fuel their legend. They're not quite ready to cruise over the cliff, *Thelma & Louise*-style, but The Kills are veering closer to the edge. Perhaps those goats have found a new, fucked-up circus to join.

"Yes. I don't want to talk about it, but the answer is yes. And that's it" VV answers the do they/don't they question

f*cking hell, do you think these passport photos are ever going to develop?" Hotel and VV on the road

LIVE!

DISPATCHES FROM THE ROCK'N'ROLL FRONTLINE

Edited by Pat Long

Franz Ferdinand in Cambridge

Venue: BOAT RACE

Date: MONDAY OCTOBER 13 **Time onstage:** 10pm

Glasgow's 24-hour arty people – the most fun you can have in a small venue

If ever history weighed heavily on the shoulders of one band it'd be boho-boppers Franz Ferdinand. Not only are they named after the Austrian archduke whose assassination sparked WWI but they're a group from *Glasgow*. Yes, the same city that's the musical equivalent of ground zero, the one that forced upon us Simple Minds, Wet Wet Wet and Del Amitri *(Er, and a million amazing bands – Ed)*. You wouldn't even wish that history on Athlete, would you?

Not that this frightens ze Franz, for they are a band that knows no fear. Only one single into their highly entertaining career (the highlights include getting addicted to Swedish liquorice, knitting six-foot replicas of their girlfriends and guitarist Nick McCarthy getting held up at gunpoint in Cardiff) and they're already selling out venues up and down the country in style. Tonight, they bring an enthusiasm to Britain's toilet circuit last seen when Ewan MacGregor went for a dip in the gents in *Trainspotting*.

For starters, 'Cheating On You' and 'Better On Holiday' are racing hairpin dramatic. 'Shopping For Blood' sees frontman Alex Kapranos camping up his dryer-than-Dracula stage persona to great effect. Song of the night honours go to the unspeakably mighty next single 'Take Me Out'. It's part Rapture, part Blondie, part disco and completely brilliant.

Add to the mix the odd-couple dynamic of Alex (think a camper Neil Tennant) and Nick (the German-raised guitarist/keyboardist/vocalist zings around onstage being a complete freak) and the Franz again underline why they'll be one of *the* bands of 2004.

Bigger than war, cooler than bombs and kicking up a shitstorm in a toilet near you. ***Primrose Hille***

Gig Report

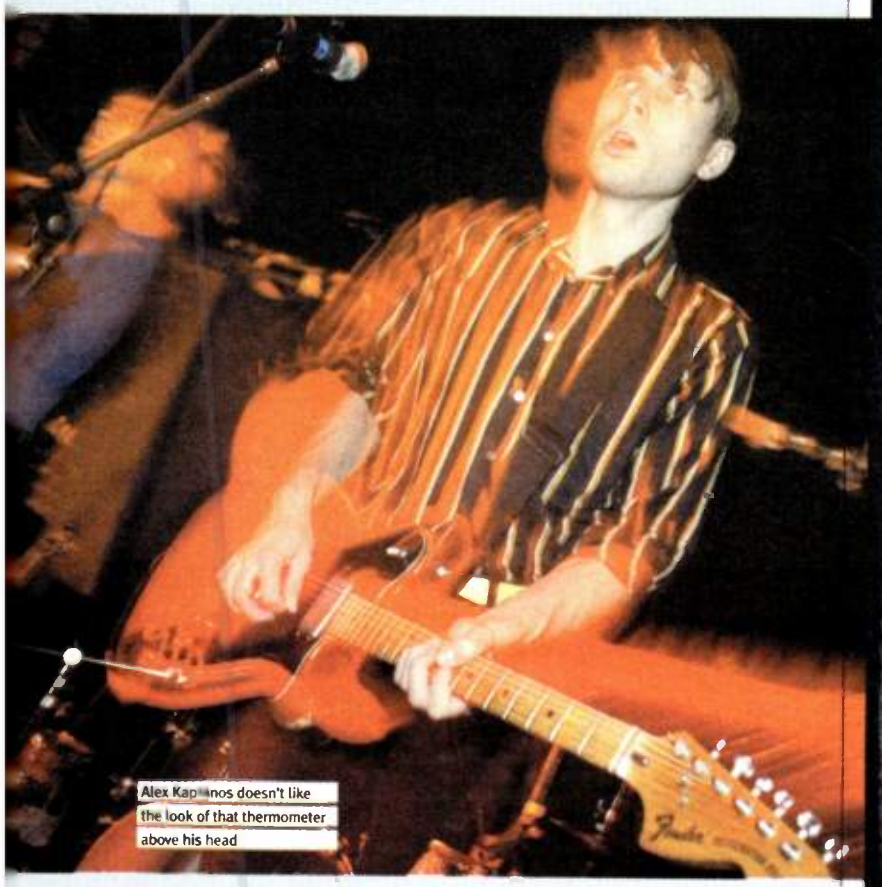
High point

The crowd block the stage's exit, meaning the band can't leave until they play an encore, a storming 'Van Tango'

Best song

'Take Me Out'

Performance



ALEX MAGUIRE/ANDY WILLSHER

Alex Kapranos doesn't like the look of that thermometer above his head

BAWL IN A GOOD CAUSE

Hundred Reasons/Snow Patrol in London

Venue: ICA

Date: TUESDAY OCTOBER 14

Time onstage: 9.30pm / 8.15pm

The Isles' spikiest guitar-slingers team up for Amnesty International

You can't knock charity. It's a bit like calling Frank Bruno 'mad' to his face or pointing out to Prince Philip that his wife's a bit of a minger – really not the thing to do.

Two years ago, Amnesty International held a comedy charity week. This year, they're doing music. Tomorrow, we've got The Music and Tim Booth, Thursday it's Billy Bragg, Friday The Thrills and Saturday Big Brovaz and (ahem) Lemar from the first *Fame Academy*. Each night is compered by a guest DJ – Jo Whiley, the Dreem Teem and Tony Wilson have all signed up to help. Tonight, we've got Zane Lowe off of the *Evening Session* on heckle-defecting duties.

Not that Snow Patrol head honcho Gary Lightbody needs much assistance. "Say something political," shouts someone from the audience. "We'll be here all night," replies Gary, stretching out his hand to reveal his signature felt-penned Chris Martin-style onto his palm. "So give me your money and I'll pass it on. I'm very trustworthy."

Opener 'Wow' is crunchingly beautiful, as is imminent new single 'Run', surely the song to elevate them to Coldplay-type ubiquity. As the guys work their way through a catalogue of amusing faces (lead guitarist: 'orgasm'; drummer: 'constipation'; bassist: 'opening a gas bill that turns out to be a cheque'), their affability is clear proof that they're sure of their impending success.

The mixing desk is turned up to 'ear-bleed' by the time Hundred Reasons reach the stage. Which is apt, as opening new song 'Savannah' ditches the Surrey quintet's thought-provoking but big-riffed emo in favour of full-on Rock Action. Which is good. Now slightly heavier, hairier and more tattooed than when ace debut album 'Ideas Above Our Station' emerged last year, the new songs match their appearance: 'What You Get' and flyer single 'The Great Test' are beefy chunks of Brit-rock.

"We all know why we're here," yells singer Colin Doran from under his slight poodle of a haircut and – for a moment – you think he's going to add "Let's rock!" and break into 'You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet' by Bachman-Turner Overdrive. But festival favourite 'Falter' is an even better choice, and the kids down the front are loving it, pogoing along like AC/DC never happened.

A mighty return, then, and a sterling introduction to a five-day event with a simple message: what are you doing sitting at home dribbling on yourself in front of *Wife Swap* when you could be watching your favourite bands giving it their all in a tiny setting for the rest of the week, and doing a little bit to change the world for the better? Just this once, charity *doesn't* begin at home. ***Rich Pelley***

The Surrey quintet have ditched the thought-provoking, big-riffed emo for full-on Rock Action

Colin's also taking part in a 24-hour sponsored headbang

Gig Report

High point

The cause. Learn more about 'DJ Saved My Life' at *www.amnesty.org.uk/dj*

Best song

Snow Patrol's 'Spitting Games', Hundred Reasons' 'The Great Test'

Performance

The newly rockin' Colin Doran of Hundred Reasons gets his, er, rocks off

NEW BANDS LIVE!

The Cribs in London

Venue: WC2 ASTORIA

Date: TUESDAY OCTOBER 7

Time onstage: 7.40pm

If you were looking to concoct the greatest English pop song in the world, you couldn't go far wrong by stapling a nagging spiky riff to a handful of yelping *"Yeah yeah"*s and spicing it liberally with a few barking *"ba ba ba"*s nd *"oo-oo"*s – just ask The Beatles or The Rolling Stones. Tonight, 'Another Number' from Leeds trio The Cribs' debut single comes pretty close: lyrically meaningless but stuffed with infectious charm.

The Jarman brothers augment the ransacking of nonsense words and a very English attitude (bassist Gary shines a torch in drummer Ross' eyes, he pours beer over him) with a scrapbook of American passions. So there's guitarist Ryan's Ramones haircut here, Gary's Pavement sigh there, Dinosaur Jr sauntering by on guitar as Ryan's Weezer vocals flex.

But the overall impression is of three lads ready to tear rock a new arsehole – if only they can be bothered. After all, who else could close a show with a drowsily fantastic 'Star Spangled Banner' that's more Horlicks than Hendrix? ***Anthony Thornton***

Neil's Children in London

Venue: CAMDEN BARFLY

Date: FRIDAY OCTOBER 10

Time onstage: 10.30pm

Droogy wonderland: Neil's Children

In all the excitement surrounding the current, ahem, British rock revival, nobody seems to have noticed that it largely constitutes a set of pantomime dames (The Darkness) and a sack of hopeless cloggers (Biffy Clyro, ThisGIRL, etc). Which Neil's Children even more vital and exciting.

Clad in identical blue uniforms, they look like teenage droogs straight out of *A Clockwork Orange*. Singer/guitarist John Linger is smeared in black make-up around one eye, drummer Brandon Jacobs has had his hair sculpted into a minor Bavarian forest, while bassist James Hair adds a menacing sneer. Musically, these misfits are just as uncompromising. They purvey an angular guitar assault that in songs like 'I Hate Models' and forthcoming single 'Come On' owes much to early Siouxsie & The Banshees. To prove just how indifferent they are to fashion, they finish their set with 'Look Behind You (Tell Me What You See)', a 15-minute outbreak of urban psychedelia. It's exactly the sort of thing we need more of. ***James Oldham***

Oceansize in London

Venue: HIGHBURY GARAGE

Date: SATURDAY OCTOBER 11

Time onstage: 9.45pm.

The best thing about the night Oceansize finally take London is that there really *is* apocalypse in the air. In a couple of weeks, when Muse are the country's biggest band, bollocks retro-rockers will be burned in city parades and people will be grateful that these five put the groundwork in for what would come next.

Oceansize *roar* tonight. These formerly clunky post-metal opuses seep and swell with human spirit. 'Catalyst' still sounds like a dreadnought doing cartwheels, and 'One Day All This Will Be Yours' is still the most deliciously *evil* song of recent times – it's just that now you can feel the sweat of the music rather then just be impressed by its complex blueprints.

Now, rather than just looking like five convulsing students boys, Mike Vennart and his team are permanently in silhouette, like horsemen or something; knowing full well that they're armed to save the future. Time might be running out, but dare to peep beyond and you'll see a thing called a future as well. Unbe-fuckin-lievable. ***Dan Martin***

PHIL WALLIS/GREG ALLUM

GIGS IN... SHEFFIELD

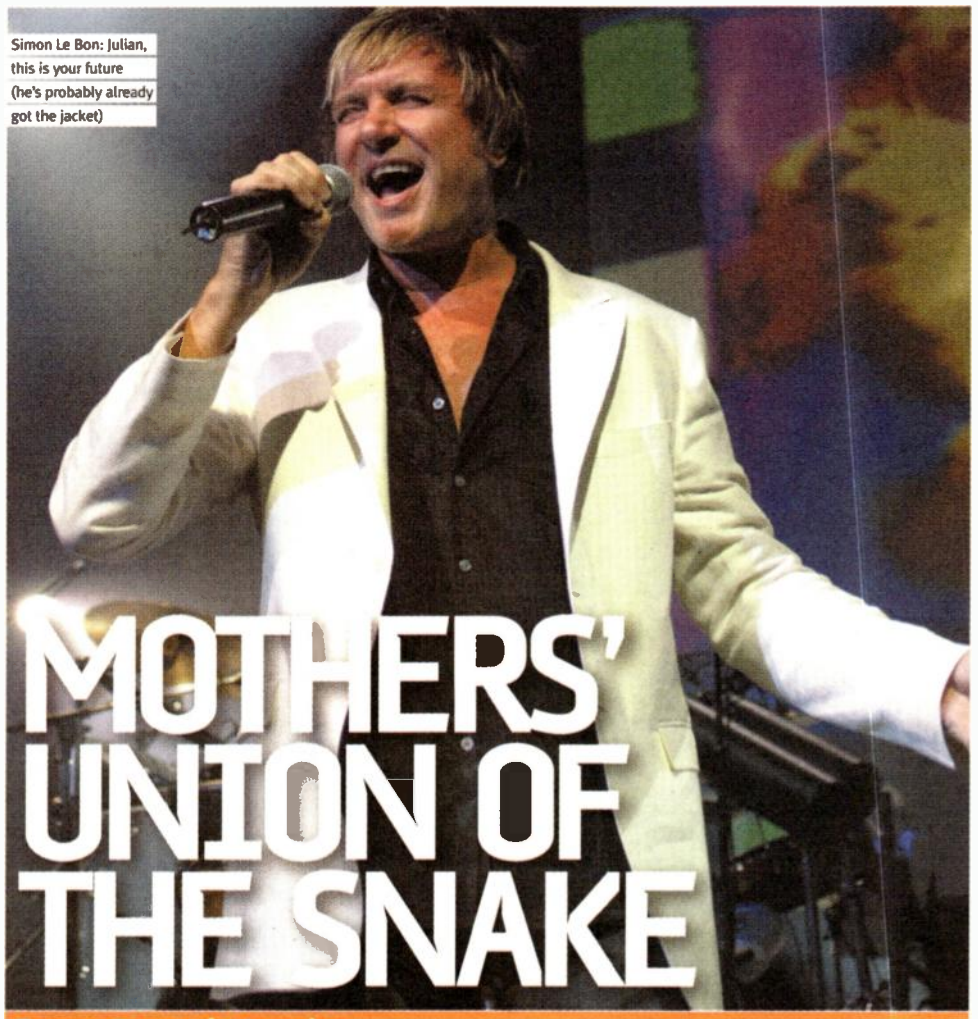
Elbow appreciate grey rainy northern cities, so it's no surprise to see them wandering around town before dragging out their tales of woe, death and relationship failure at **Monday night's Foundry gig. Their** arty **videos make the** 30-**something trendy teachers swoon,** but we **prefer the long-haired epic rock fun of** openers **Longview.**

Tuesday means a trip underneath a car **park to the dimly lit** Fez **Club where Welsh trio The Keys play wistful,** half-hearted **indie that** we've **frankly heard too many times before. Most people here are friends of the support** act, a local lad going by the name of **Abraham.** Sadly, Abe quickly reveals himself to be a David Gray wannabe.

Salvation comes on Wednesday night at The Attic in the form of handsome three-piece **Chora,** whose brand of art-rock has enough white noise, excitement and drumsticks up fretboards to mean we can overlook the hefty doses of pretension that go with it.

Thursday at The Fuzz Club sees We Are Legion prove that not all local lads can pull off the discordant rock thing without sounding indulgent. Luckily, **Electrelane's** mix of fizzy synths, krautrock rhythms and bubbly electronica makes the ticket price worthwhile. They're all girls, y'know.

The week reaches a messy conclusion at **Sheffield University.** The most American-sounding band in **Yorkshire, Future Ex-Wife** are emo-looking, sweaty and like to shout, while this week's hip-hop representatives **Hoodz Underground** prove that there are ghettos and drive-bys up north. **Rumpus,** meanwhile, aren't that special: just more distinctly average boy-rock. A mixed week in Yorkshire, then, most notable for the fact that we managed to go seven days without **Pink Grease** showing their faces. Blimey. ***Laura Benn***



Simon Le Bon: Julian, this is your future (he's probably already got the jacket)

MOTHERS' UNION OF THE SNAKE

Duran Duran in London

Venue: KENTISH TOWN FORUM **Date:** TUESDAY OCTOBER 14 **Time onstage:** 9.50pm

The 'Bos Strokes make a knicker-wettingly exciting live return, to the delight of your mum

The bloke working for the band tells me this: the gig sold out in four minutes flat and he's been offered so many sexual favours for tickets that his sole regret is, this being a short-notice show, he really wouldn't have the time or the stamina, to cash in on the whole tix for fux scenario.

Well, that's one mystery solved. At least you know who your mum was on the phone to all last week.

Duran Duran's return to the UK stage after 18 years has kicked off sheer hormonal pandemonium. But hey, if dads can get all swoony over rumours of a Jam reunion, then mums can sure as hell's belles get screamy over the reformed Duran. We've got Dadrock and Teenpop, so what price Riotmum? About £150 a ticket, if tonight's touts are talking kosher.

For those of you born in the '80s and intrigued by all this, all you need to know is that Duran Duran were the original Strokes. They had their Julian in Simon Le Bon – a cherubic singer prone to the podge. They had their Fab in John Taylor, the chiselled hunk who elicits most of the screams. They had their own Nick in Nick Rhodes – snooty, pretentious and sometimes a twat. They had their Albert in Andy Taylor – a bit of rough from another band entirely. And they had their Nikolai in Roger Taylor, the dull one who left in the '80s and went a bit Frank Bruno.

And for those of you who were original Durannies, know this: they are reassuringly the same old DD. From their entrance, lined up along the front of the stage milking the adulation, through to their dogged refusal to drop their cover of 'White Lines (Don't Don't Do it)' – imagine the cast of *Fame Academy* doing 'The Real Slim Shady'; uh huh! – they are eternally unbowed in their arrogance.

Bless them! We shed a communal tear to lost youth during 'Save A Prayer' (the '80s 'Wonderwall'); squeal along to 'Girls On Film', 'Planet Earth' and 'Rio'; politely put up with the newie ('What Happens Tomorrow'); nod sagely to 'Ordinary World', the band's superb autobiography in song; and make strange robotic gestures to 'Wild Boys', which sounds like an epileptic outbreak in woodwork class. In other words, fucking excellent fun.

Bet your mum had a bitch of a hangover, eh? ***Steve Sutherland***

Gig Report

High point
The five minutes at the start when they came on and just *stood* there, lapping up the applause

Best song
'Wild Boys'

Performance

HECKLE OF THE WEEK

That told 'em

Who: The Fall
Where: Leeds Irish Centre
When: October 8
Heckle: "You made me buy a Vauxhall Corsa!" (no, us neither)

Heckle of the week gets a shiny sixpence. Suggestions to *liveheckles@nme.com*

VIEW FROM THE BACK

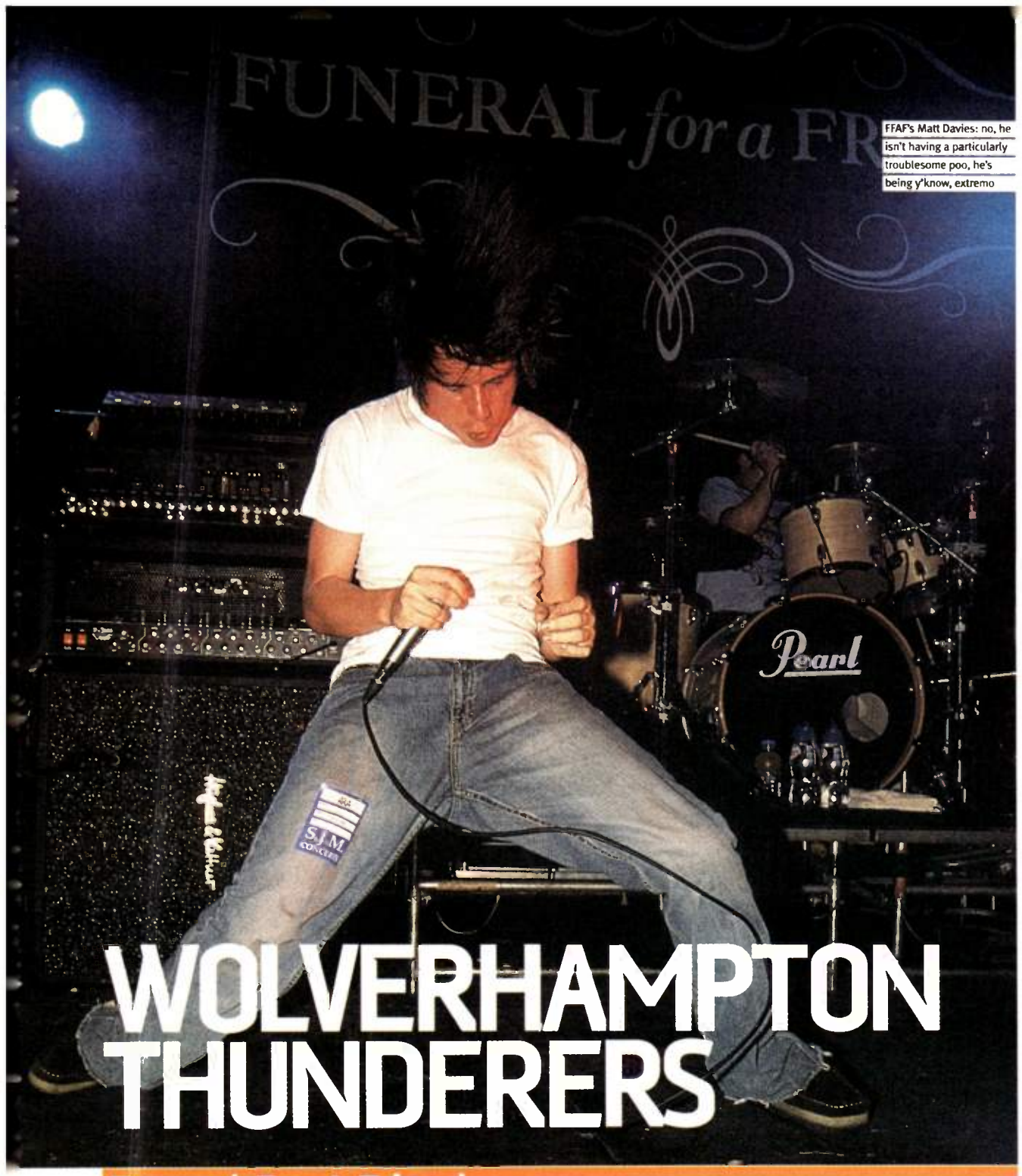
Barroom wisdom from deep inside the music business

1 The Libertines' second record is going to be a work of total genius to rival 'Forever Changes' and 'Pet Sounds' at the top of those boring lists of the greatest albums ever made you get when the Sunday supplements have run out of ideas
2 Friendster is the new crack cocaine
3 Yoko Ono really is a charming lady

T-SHIRT OF THE WEEK

At a gig? In a shit shirt? Beware the sharp tongue of the roving NME Fashion Bitch

Where: Rough Trade 25th Anniversary Party, London Neighbourhood Bar
Fashion Bitch
"In fact, this woman oves sloths so much she hasn't bothered ironing and she's even spilt some chicken pie down her front. Kooky."



FFAF's Matt Davies: no, he isn't having a particularly troublesome poo, he's being y'know, extremo

WOLVERHAMPTON THUNDERERS

Funeral For A Friend in Wolverhampton

Venue: WULFRUN HALL **Date:** TUESDAY OCTOBER 7. **Time onstage:** 9.30pm.

New rock heroes take the Midlands by the scruff of the neck and give them an extremo thrashing

Oh come on, don't act so surprised. A couple of years back, before spending all your money on MC5 and Stooges records instead of deodorant became a fashion statement, the emo offensive was in full flow. Hundred Reasons were chart heroes and Jimmy Eat World were a must-hear band. Now the second wave of screaming geeks is upon us and even a tone-deaf Nickelback fan couldn't fail to see why Funeral For A Friend are on the frontline.

With his Karen O hairdo, boyish good looks and the kind of energy that could cause a nasty bout of motion sickness, Matt Davies is a frontman beyond compare. As he continually swings his microphone around and around like a hardcore incarnation of Tom Jones, the fantastically named 'She Drove Me To Daytime Television' opens the evening's floodgates before a raging rendition of 'This Year's Most Open Heartbreak' careers out of control like a derailed train. Not since the Manic Street Preachers have a group of Welsh Valley boys created such pandemonium after only the second song. The superbly sharp emo-pop of 'Escape Artists Never Die' is renamed 'David Blaine' for the night in honour of the man's box-dwelling antics.

And then of course, there's 'Juneau'. Take 'Smells Like Teen Spirit', multiply it by 'Creep' and add the sum of 'Everybody Hurts' and 'Yellow' and you're still about as close to reaching the magnitude of this song as the Kings Of Leon are to becoming patrons for Cancer Research. It's a multi-purpose rock anthem – one to cry, crowdsurf and wistfully sing along to all at the same time (lighters optional but preferred).

In the ever-increasing field of British extremo outfits, there's Funeral For A Friend and there's everyone else. *NME* strongly recommends the first option. ***Hardeep Phull***

Gig Report

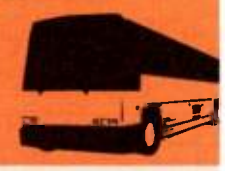
High point
Everyone singing along perfectly in time to 'Juneau'

Best song
'Bullet Theory'

Performance

BEST GIGS THIS WEEK

Because getting sweaty with strangers is good for the soul



SOLD OUT!

JANE'S ADDICTION/ THE EIGHTIES MATCHBOX B-LINE DISASTER
Woo! The two most preposterous bands in the world together on the same bill at last. All we need now is for Justin Darkness to be at the bar and we'll have the set
Brighton Dome (October 30)

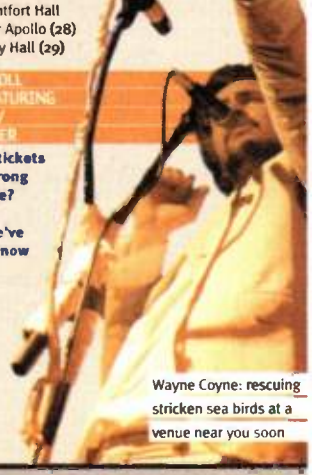
SEAN PAUL/DIZZEE RASCAL
Dancehall superstar and Mercury winner together on the same bill = £35 per ticket on eBay. Part of Radio 1's One Live week of shows
Brighton Dome (October 28)

STILL AVAILABLE AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

THE ELECTRIC SOFT PARADE
The White brothers return
Sheffield Leadmill (October 25), London Camden Barfly with The Hiss (26), Norwich Waterfront (28), Reading Fez Club (29) and Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms (30)

THE FLAMING LIPS
A prelude to the Flips' forthcoming EP 'Ego Tripping At The Gates Of Hell' and film *Christmas On Mars*
Bournemouth International Centre (October 24), Cardiff International Arena (26), Leicester De Montfort Hall (27), Manchester Apollo (28) and Sheffield City Hall (29)

NME ROCK'N'ROLL RIOT TOUR FEATURING JET/THE HISS/ MR DAVID VINER
There are still tickets left? What's wrong with you people? This is a solid gold line-up we've assembled, y'know
Glasgow QMU (October 27), Newcastle Northumbria University (28), Sheffield Leadmill (29) and Liverpool Carling Academy (30)



Wayne Coyne: rescuing stricken sea birds at a venue near you soon

JAMES LOOKER/ANDY WILLSHER

NEW BAND GIGS

DEVENDRA BANHART
Don't miss the weirdy little hippy beardman and his scary songs about monkeys
Newcastle Head Of Steam (October 28), Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (29) and Belfast Auntie Annies (30)

READ YELLOW
Ace Boston screechers' debut UK dates. Light blue touch paper. Stand well back
Cambridge Junction (October 27), London Aldgate East Rhythm Factory (28) and London Camden Barfly *NME* Presents Night (29)

For full details see *Gig Guide*. To book tickets for all shows call the *NME* Ticketline on 0870 1 663 663.

REVIEWED NEXT WEEK YES, IN HONOUR OF NATIONAL ACRONYM WEEK, THE LIVE SECTION OF NEXT WEEK'S NME WILL FEATURE RHCP, SFA AND AC/DC. OK?

SJM Concerts, Butler UK & Regular Music present

ELECTRICITY

PLUS GUESTS

NOVEMBER
25 SOLD OUT UNIVERSITY
26 ABERDEEN LEMON TREE 01224 642 230
27 GLASGOW BARROWLAND 0141 339 8383
28 LIVERPOOL ACADEMY (Hotham Street) 0151 256 5555
29 SOLD OUT UNIVERSITY
30 SOLD OUT
DECEMBER
02 SOLD OUT UNIVERSITY
03 BOURNEMOUTH OLD FIRE STATION 0870 040 6565
04 LEEDS MET UNIVERSITY 0113 244 4600
05 SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY 0114 222 8777
06 SOLD OUT UNIVERSITY
07 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY 0115 941 2544
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND
09 LONDON BRIXTON CARLING ACADEMY 0870 771 2000, 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932, 020 7434 2222
10 SOLD OUT AMBASSADOR 10900 25100
12 SOLD OUT EXHIBITION
13 CARDIFF UNIVERSITY 029 2078 1458
15 PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY EXTRA DATE 01752 663 337
16 OXFORD TOWN HALL EXTRA DATE 0871 2200 260
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE DUE TO PUBLIC DEMAND
17 BIRMINGHAM SANCTUARY 0871 2200 260
18 STOKE STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY EXTRA DATE 01782 206 000

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com / www.wayshed.com
The album 'FIRE' out now featuring new single 'DANCE COMMANDER' out on now on XL Recordings www.electricsx.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

stellastarr*

november
13 leeds cockpit 0113 245 5570
14 middlesbrough cornerhouse 01642 247 755
15 dundee westport bar 01382 200 993
16 edinburgh the venue 0131 226 7010
18 newcastle the global 0191 233 0444
19 york fibbers 01904 651 250
20 sheffield fez club 0114 276 6082
21 stoke sugarmill 01782 206 000
22 reading fez club 0118 958 6839
24 london islington carling academy 0870 771 2000 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932

Tickets £6adv. except London £7.50 (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
Debut album STELLASTARR* available now

SJM Concerts & Metropolis Music by arrangement with 13 Artists present

22-20s

+ DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS – The Duke Spirit *
PLUS THIRTEEN SENSES•

OCTOBER
Mon 20th – Sumo, LEICESTER* 0116 255 1906
Tue 21st – Social, NOTTINGHAM* 0115 912 9000
Wed 22nd – King Tut's, GLASGOW* 0871 2200 260
Thur 23rd – University, SHEFFIELD* 0114 222 8777
Sat 25th – University, MANCHESTER* 0161 832 1111
Sun 26th – Barfly, LIVERPOOL* 0870 907 0999
Mon 27th – Carling Acadamy 2, BIRMINGHAM* 0870 771 2000
Wed 29th – Zodiac, OXFORD• 01865 420 042
Thur 30th – Soundhaus, NORTHAMPTON• 01604 250 898
NOVEMBER
Sat 1st – Barfly, CARDIFF• 0870 907 0999
Sun 2nd – Joiners, SOUTHAMPTON• 023 8022 5612
Mon 3rd – Fleece, BRISTOL• 0117 929 9008
Tues 4th – ULU, LONDON* 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932 020 7434 2222

Tickets £6adv. except London £8.50 (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
05/03 mini live LP out 20-10-03 on Heavenly Recordings www.heavenly100.com www.22-20s.com

SJM Concerts present

BUZZCOCKS

plus guests the moonies & the nash

December
08 BRISTOL Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000
09 BRIGHTON Concorde 2 01273 772 770
10 LONDON Electric Ballroom 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932
12 OXFORD The Zodiac 01865 420 042
13 STOKE Sugarmill 01782 206 000
14 SHEFFIELD Leadmill 0870 010 4555
15 LEEDS Met University 0113 244 4600
16 GLASGOW The Garage (CPL) 0870 220 1116
18 NEWCASTLE University 0191 261 2606
19 MANCHESTER Academy 2 0161 832 1111
20 STOURBRIDGE Rock Cafe 01384 833 556
21 NORWICH Waterfront 01603 508 050

Tickets £12.50adv. / Mcr £13 / Lond £15adv. (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
Buzzcocks latest album available in stores now www.buzzcocks.com

The Moonies Rock and Roll EP released 8th Dec. Japanese Import Album Its Amazing out from 24th Nov, distributed by Vital/THE www.themoonies.co.uk

The Nash new album Four Wheel Destiny in stores now, distributed by Shellshcock. www.thenash.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with ITB present

the Jeevas

plus guests NIC ARMSTRONG

OCTOBER
Wed 22 READING FEZ CLUB 0118 958 6839
Thu 23 CARDIFF BARFLY 0870 907 0999
Sat 25 BOURNEMOUTH VILLA 0870 040 6565
Sun 26 BRISTOL FLEECE & FIRKIN 0117 929 9008
Mon 27 OXFORD ZODIAC 01865 420042
Thu 30 LONDON SCALA 020 7403 3331, 020 7403 3331

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
New album 'Cowboys & Indians' out now www.thejeevas.com
Nic Armstrong limited edition 7" double A-sided single Natural Flair/Down Home Girl on November 10

SJM Concerts by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

THE BANDITS

plus guests MOUNTAINEERS & OAR (Mcr only)

OCTOBER
24 LONDON ULU 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932
25 BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY 0870 771 2000
26 MIDDLESBOROUGH CORNERHOUSE 01642 253 053, 01642 552 255
27 GLASGOW KING TUTS 0870 169 0100
28 LEEDS COCKPIT 0113 245 5570
29 MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY 0161 832 1111
30 SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY 0114 222 8777, 0114 251 7000

NOVEMBER
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATES - ORIGINAL TICKETS STILL VALID
03 PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS 023 9286 3911
04 OXFORD ZODIAC 01865 420 042
05 EXETER CAVERN 01392 425 309

24 hr cc hotline 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
Album 'AND THEY WALKED AWAY' out now incl. the singles TAKE IT AND RUN & 2 STEP ROCK. The Single '2 STEP ROCK' out now. www.thebandits.info

SJM Concerts by arrangement with Helter Skelter International present

THE STANDS

plus guests Everybody Loves

November 2003
12 Newcastle Global 0191 261 2606 Tickets £6.50adv
13 Glasgow King Tut's 0870 169 0100 Tickets £7adv
15 Leeds Rocket 0113 245 5570 Tickets £6adv
16 Nottingham Rescue Rooms 0115 941 8484 Tickets £6adv
17 Manchester University 0161 832 1111 Tickets £6.50adv
19 Reading Fez 0118 958 6839 Tickets £6adv
20 Northampton Soundhaus 01604 250 894 Tickets £6.50adv
22 Birmingham Carling Academy 0870 771 2000 Tickets £6adv
23 Oxford Zodiac 01865 420 042 Tickets £6adv
24 Leicester Charlotte 0116 2553 958 Tickets £6adv
26 Exeter Cavern Club 01392 425 309 Tickets £6adv
27 London ULU 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932 Tickets £7.50adv

All tickets subject to booking fee
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260
Buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
www.the-stands.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with Solo present

TIM BURGESS

plus guests

Friday 07 November
LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
0870 771 2000, 020 7403 3331
020 7734 8932, 0207434 2222
Tuesday 25 November
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY
0161 832 111

Tickets £15adv. except London £16.50 (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with ITB present

THE RAVEONETTES

plus guests RAZORLIGHT & THE BOXER REBELLION

October
23 Newcastle Northumbria University 0191 232 6002
24 Glasgow Garage 0141 339 8383
28 Manchester University 0161 832 1111
29 Norwich Waterfront 01603 508 050
30 Birmingham Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000
31 Sheffield Leadmill 0845 300 4050
November
02 Bristol Fleece 0117 929 9008
03 Brighton Concorde 2 01273 772 770
04 London SOLD OUT Fiddler

24hr cc hotline 0871 2200 260 or buy online @ www.gigsandtours.com
New single 'That Great Love Sound' out now.
The album 'Chain Gang of Love' out now www.theraveonettes.com

SJM Concerts by arrangement with PCI Present

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM WITH

SAINT ETIENNE

PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUESTS
A CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA
SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER
020 7494 5058, 020 7403 3331 or 020 7734 8932
TICKETS PRICED £17.50
24hr cc hotline 0871 2200 260 or buy on-line www.gigsandtours.com

saturday 22nd november
the legend is back
9pm>4am

megadog live

SJM Concerts present

manchester academy
oxford road

eat static . 808 state dj's . eggbamyasi
dj evolution . lawgiverz . aaron liberator
ben invasion . . . hosted by mc teabag

Tickets: £15 adv (subject to booking fee) from:
Manchester University Students Union: 0161.832.1111 +
Book Online @: www.gigsandtours.com + www.ticketline.co.uk
+ 24hr Credit Card Hotline: 0871.2200.260. I.D.Required - R.O.A.R.

Lighting Design: ColourSound&Experiment 60% of Turbosound rigged by Pete Howard
Decor by Sonic Eye Inspiration by Fraudster 07910N: foo.fighters@tiscali.co.uk

SJM Concerts, Clear Channel & Regular by arrangement with ITB presents

Stereophonics

YOU GOTTA GO THERE TO COME BACK TOUR

plus special guest **TIM BURGESS** (November dates only)

FEEDER (Cardiff date only)

November 2003

08 NEW[SOLD OUT]LE TELEWEST ARENA
09 SHE[SOLD OUT]D HALLAM FM ARENA
10 HUL[SOLD OUT]NA
EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL PUBLIC DEMAND
07 HULL ARENA
0871 2200 260, 01482 325 252
12 EXE[SOLD OUT]ESTPOINT ARENA
13 PLY[SOLD OUT]H PAVILIONS
15 NOT[SOLD OUT]AM ARENA
16 BIR[SOLD OUT]AM NEC
17 BIR[SOLD OUT]AM NEC
19 MA[SOLD OUT]TER MEN ARENA
EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL PUBLIC DEMAND
20 MANCHESTER MEN ARENA
0870 190 8000, 0161 832 1111

22[SOLD OUT]GOW SECC
23[SOLD OUT]GOW SECC
24[SOLD OUT]DEEN AECC

December 2003

16[SOLD OUT]ON EARLS COURT
EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL PUBLIC DEMAND
17 LONDON EARLS COURT
0870 903 9033, 020 7403 3331, 020 7434 2222
20 CARDIFF MILLENNIUM STADIUM
0870 400 0688, 0870 121 1228, 0870 066 7799, 029 2022 4488
No booking fee for personal callers paying by cash or cheque at Ticketline UK, Westgate Street Cardiff.

Tickets £23.50adv. / London £25adv. / Cardiff £27.50 & £32.50 (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotlines: 0871 2200 260 / 0870 400 0688 / 0870 903 3444 (Scotland) or buy online:
www.gigsandtours.com / www.cclive.co.uk ticketmaster / www.ticketweb.co.uk (Scotland)
New album YOU GOTTA GO THERE TO COME BACK featuring the single MAYBE TOMORROW
out now on V2 Records. Full details and exclusive audio-visual content on www.stereophonics.com

SJM Concerts & PCL by arrangement with The Agency

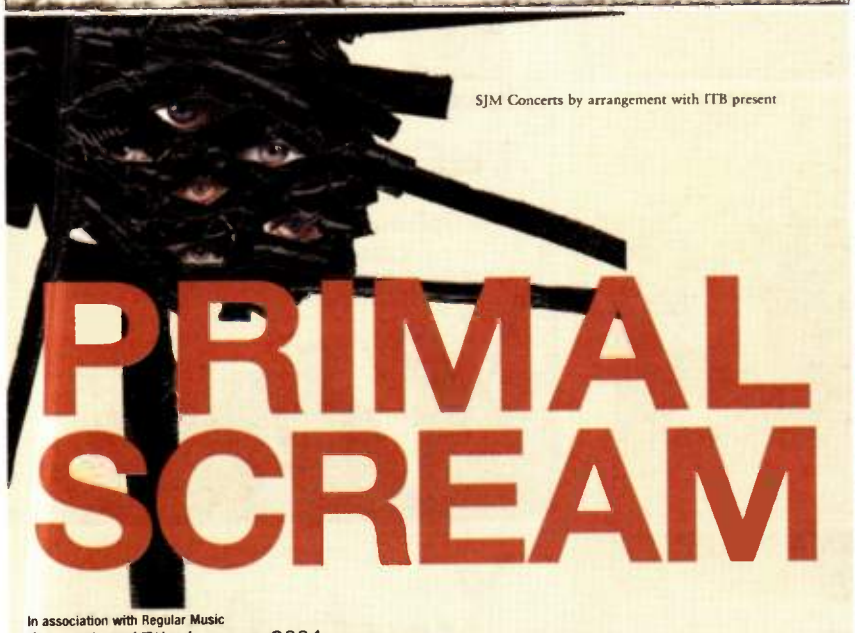
RYAN ADAMS KILLERS

ROCK N ROLL TOUR 03

November

Mon 24 MANCHESTER ACADEMY 0161 832 1111
Tue 25 GLASGOW BARROWLANDS 0870 0600 100
Wed 26 LONDON FORUM 020 7403 3331
020 7734 8932 / 020 7434 2222

Tickets £16adv. / London £18.50 (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
New album ROCK N ROLL out Mon 3rd November. www.ryan-adams.com



SJM Concerts by arrangement with ITB present

PRIMAL SCREAM

In association with Regular Music

Saturday 17th January 2004
GLASGOW CARLING ACADEMY
0870 771 2000

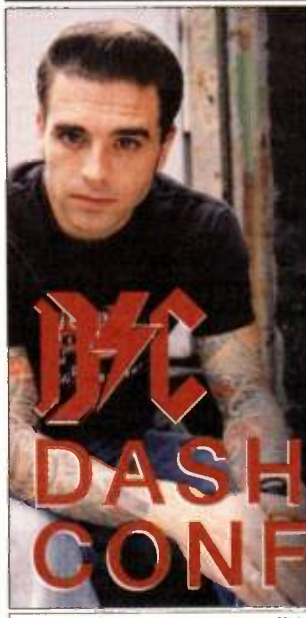
Sunday 18th January 2004
MANCHESTER CARLING APOLLO
0870 401 8000, 0161 832 1111

Tuesday 20th January 2004
BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY
0870 771 2000

Wednesday 21st January 2004
SOUTHAMPTON GUILDHALL
023 8063 2601

Friday 23rd January 2004
LONDON HAMMERSMITH CARLING APOLLO
0870 606 3400, 020 7403 3331, 020 7734 8932, 020 7434 2222

Tickets £18.50adv. except London £20adv. (subject to booking fee) 24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com
New best of album "Dirty Hits" out now www.primalscream.org



SJM Concerts and Regular Music in association with Helter Shelter present

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL
01902 552 121

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER
GLASGOW QMU
0870 903 3444

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER [SOLD OUT]
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
0870 771 2000 / 020 7403 3331

Tickets £10adv. Except London £12adv (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or book online: www.gigsandtours.com

DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL

SJM Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists present

The BLUETONES

plus guests THE VESSELS

November

12 Leeds Cockpit 0113 245 5570
13 Middleton Civic 0871 2200 260
14 Wrexham University 0871 2200 260
16 Inverness Raigmore 01463 221 546
17 Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 0131 220 3234
18 Isle of Man The Venue 0871 2200 260
20 Keele University 01782 713 145
21 Cheltenham Woodlawns 0871 2200 260
22 Mansfield Town Mill 01623 632 451
24 Peterlee Community Theatre 0871 2200 260
25 Cardiff MS1 029 2064 4996
26 Birmingham Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000
28 Leicester Charlotte 0116 255 3956
29 Oxford Zodiac 01865 420 042
30 Cambridge Junction 01223 511 511

December

02 Aylesbury Civic Centre 01296 486 009
03 Aldershot West End Centre 01252 330 040
04 Peterborough Met Lounge 01733 571 618
06 Sheffield Leadmill 0870 010 4555
07 Nottingham Rescue Rooms 0115 941 8484
08 Liverpool University 0151 256 5555
10 Exeter Cavern 01392 425 309
11 Norwich Arts Centre 01603 508 050
13 London Shepherds Bush Empire 0870 771 2200, 020 7403 3331

24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260
Online: www.gigsandtours.com

METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENT

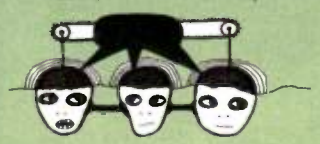
Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts and DF Concerts by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

The Electric Soft Parade

plus guests

BRITISH SEA POWER (London only) CLEARLAKE (except 25th & 28th) THE ZUTONS (25th only)

KIDSYMPHONY (25th & 28th only) ACTRESS HANDS (London only) DJ'S KICK OUT THE JAMS (London only) THE UPPER ROOM (1-11 Nov only)



OCTOBER

Sat	25	SHEFFIELD Leadmill	0845 300 4050
Tue	28	NORWICH Waterfront	01603 508 050
Wed	29	READING Fez Club	018 958 6839
Thu	30	PORTSMOUTH Wedgewood Rooms	023 9286 3911
Fri	31	LEICESTER The Charlotte	0116 255 3956

NOVEMBER

Sat	01	LEEDS Cockpit	0113 245 5570
Sun	02	OXFORD Zodiac	01865 420 042
Tue	04	NORTHUMBRIA University	0191 233 0444
Wed	05	ABERDEEN Lemon Tree	01224 642 230
Thu	06	EDINBURGH Liquid Rooms	0870 169 0100
Fri	07	LIVERPOOL Carling Academy	0870 771 2000
Sat	08	PRESTON Mill	08700 600 100
Mon	10	BIRMINGHAM Carling Academy 2	0870 771 2000
Tue	11	BRISTOL Fleece	0117 929 9008, 0870 444 4400
Wed	12	LONDON Astoria	020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, 020 7403 3331

Tickets £9.00 adv. except London £12.00 adv.
All tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

The new album "The American Adventure" out now
www.electricsoftparade.com www.thebrotherhoodoffish.com

Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts and PCL by arrangement with ITB present

THE MARS VOLTA

plus guests

NOVEMBER

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE DUE TO DEMAND
ORIGINAL TICKETS REMAIN VALID
WED 19 **GLASGOW BARROWLANDS**
08700 600 100

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE DUE TO DEMAND
ORIGINAL TICKETS REMAIN VALID
THU 20 **MANCHESTER ACADEMY**
0161 832 1111

SAT 22 **NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY**
0115 958 8484, 0115 941 2544

SUN 23 LOND[SOLD OUT]TORIA

EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO DEMAND
MON 24 **LONDON ASTORIA**
020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, 020 7403 3331, 020 7344 4040

Tickets to all shows: £10.00 adv. except London: £11.00 adv.
All tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com
www.themarsvolta.co.uk

METROPOLIS MUSIC, SJM CONCERTS & DF CONCERTS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AGENCY PRESENT

BILLY TALENT

PLUS GUESTS

OCTOBER
28 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
0115 941 2544, 0115 958 8484
28 GLASGOW KING TUTS
0870 169 0100
29 WOLVERHAMPTON LITTLE CIVIC
01902 552 121
31 LEEDS COCKPIT
0113 245 5570

NOVEMBER
02 MANCHESTER ROADHOUSE
0161 832 1111
03 LONDON UNDERWORLD
020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932
020 7403 3331, 020 7403 3331
plus usual agents

Album 'BILLY TALENT' out now

WWW.BILLYTALENT.COM

Metropolis & PCL by arrangement with CNL present

The Black Keys

plus guests

November 2003

17	PORTSMOUTH WEDGEWOOD ROOMS	023 9286 3911
18	MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3	0161 832 1111
19	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 245 5570
20	GLASGOW KING TUTS	08700 600 100
21	NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA	0191 233 0444
22	LONDON MEAN FIDDLER	020 7344 4040
23	BRISTOL FLEECE & FIRKIN	0870 44 44 400

All tickets subject to booking fee. Buy online www.gigsandtours.com

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Metropolis Music by arrangement with Decked Out! present

Dave Clarke

Live

plus DJ Andrew Weatherall

Thursday 27th November 8pm - 2am
LONDON SCALA

Tickets £15 adv. from 020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, 020 7403 3331, plus usual agents
All tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com
Album 'Devil's Advocate' out 3rd November www.davedarke.com www.skint.net

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Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts and DF Concerts by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

MICHAEL FRANTI AND SPEARHEAD

plus guest Keller Williams

NOVEMBER
30 LIVERPOOL CARLING ACADEMY
0870 771 2000

DECEMBER
01 BRIGHTON CONCORDE 2
01273 772 770
02 BRISTOL CARLING ACADEMY
0870 771 2000
03 LONDON SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
0870 771 2000, 020 7287 0932
04 NORTHAMPTON ROADMENDER
01604 604 603
05 MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY
0161 832 1111
08 GLASGOW QMU
0870 169 0100
09 ABERDEEN LEMON TREE
0870 169 0100
10 NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
0191 261 2606

All tickets subject to booking fee. Buy online: www.gigsandtours.com

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Metropolis Music by arrangement with ITB present

Martina Topley-Bird

plus guests

Thursday 13th November
BRISTOL FLEECE
Tickets £10.00 adv. from 0870 44 44 400

Friday 14th November
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY
Tickets £10.00 adv. from 0161 832 1111

Saturday 15th November
ISLINGTON CARLING ACADEMY
Tickets £12.50 adv. from 08700 600 100
020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, plus usual agents

Tickets subject to booking fee Buy on-line:www.gigsandtours.com

The debut album 'Quixotic' out now

THE DISTILLERS

plus guests THE BRONX

November 2003
11 GLASGOW QMU
[illegible]
12 MANCHESTER ACADEMY
[illegible]
13 LOND[SOLD OUT]TORIA
15 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY
[illegible]

New album 'CORAL FANG' out 13th October
New single 'DRAIN THE BLOOD' out 27th October

Metropolis Music by arrangement with The Agency present

THE VON BONDIES

plus special guests

Tuesday 4th & Friday 7th November
LONDON 100 CLUB

Tickets £8.00 adv. from: CC Hotline: 020 7287 0932, Stargreen: 020 7734 8932
Way Ahead: 020 7403 3331, Ticketmaster: 020 7344 4040
plus usual agents. All tickets subject to booking fee
Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

DEAD MEADOW

plus Seachange & Of Arrowe Hill ...

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER
ISLINGTON CARLING ACADEMY 2

Tickets £8.00 adv. from: 08700 600 100, 020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932
Tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

A Metropolis Music presentation by arrangement with CNL

Metropolis Music by arrangement with CNL present

ENON

plus guests Shesus

Tuesday 11th November
CARLING ISLINGTON ACADEMY 2

Tickets £8.00 adv. from BPO: 08700 600 100, 020 7287 0932, 020 7734 8932, 020 7403 3331
plus usual agents. Tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

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Metropolis Music by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

clarkesville.

plus guests

Wednesday 5th November
London Underworld

Tickets £7.00 adv. from CC Hotline: 020 7287 0932
Stargreen: 020 7734 8932, Way Ahead: 020 7403 3331
plus usual agents throughout London and the SE
Tickets subject to booking fee
Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

Double A side single 'Heavy Soul / Just Kills Me' out November 3rd. Album out now
www.clarkesville.net

Metropolis Music presents

Scout Niblett

plus ILL EASE

Thursday 30th October
Union Chapel Studio Theatre
Compton Terrace, London N1

Tickets £7 adv from: Credit Card Hotline: 020 7287 0932
Stargreen: 020 7734 8932, Way Ahead: 020 7403 3331, Ticketmaster: 020 7344 4040,
plus usual agents. Tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com
The new single 'I'll be a Prince' out 27/10/03. Taken from the album 'I Am'. www.toopure.com

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For exclusive live announcements and priority booking go to: www.gigsandtours.com

METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENT

Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts, and DF Concerts by arrangement with 13 Artists present

suede

singles - the best of suede

plus guests (All shows except Astoria) RAZORLIGHT AMBULANCE

Sunday 7th December
Glasgow Carling Academy
0870 169 0100, 0870 771 2000

Monday 8th December
Manchester Academy
0161 832 1111

Tuesday 9th December
Bristol Carling Academy
0870 771 2000

'suede singles' is out now
www.suede.net

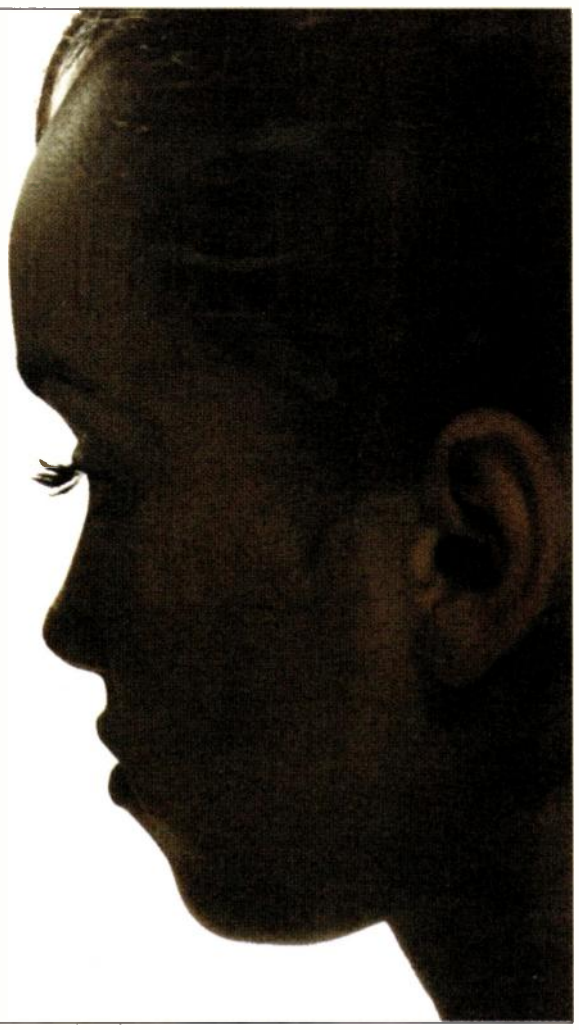
Thursday 11th December
Birmingham Carling Academy
0870 771 2000

Friday 12th December
SOLD OUT
London Brixton Carling Academy

Extra date added - with very special guests
Saturday 13th December
London Astoria
First Call: 0870 848 0000, CC Hotline: 020 7287 0932, Stargreen: 020 7734 8932
Way Ahead: 020 7403 3331, plus usual agents throughout London and the S/E

Tickets £17.50 adv. / London £18.50 adv. (subject to booking fee)

24 hour cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online at: www.gigsandtours.com



Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts & DF Concerts by arrangement with Primary Talent present

Basement Jaxx

present

Kish Kash Tour

December 2003

Wednesday	03	BRISTOL CARLING ACADEMY	0870 771 2000
Thursday	04	BIRMINGHAM CARLING ACADEMY	0870 771 2000
Saturday	06	LEEDS UNIVERSITY	0113 244 4600
Sunday	07	EDINBURGH CORN EXCHANGE	0870 169 0100
Monday	08	NEWCASTLE NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY	0191 232 6002
Wednesday	10	LONDON FORUM	020 7734 8932
Thursday	11	LONDON FRIDGE SOLD OUT	
Friday	12	LONDON HAMMERSMITH PALAIS	020 7734 8932
Saturday	13	LONDON OCEAN SOLD OUT	

Tickets £16.00 adv. except London £17.50 adv. (subject to booking fee)
24hr cc hotline: 0871 2200 260 or buy online: www.gigsandtours.com

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blur

plus Adrian Sherwood

NOVEMBER

20 GLASGOW SOLD OUT BARROWLANDS
21 GLASGOW SOLD OUT BARROWLANDS
22 GLASGOW BARROWLANDS
0870 169 0100 / 0141 339 8383
24 LIVERPOOL SOLD OUT ROYAL COURT
25 WOLVERHAMPTON SOLD OUT CIVIC
26 WOLVERHAMPTON SOLD OUT CIVIC
28 MANCHESTER SOLD OUT APOLLO
29 MANCHESTER APOLLO
0870 401 8000 (24hr) / 0161 832 1111

NEW DATE ADDED

30 BLACKBURN KING GEORGE'S HALL
01254 582 582

DECEMBER

02 LONDON BRIXTON ACADEMY SOLD OUT
03 LONDON BRIXTON ACADEMY SOLD OUT
04 LONDON BRIXTON ACADEMY SOLD OUT
11 BRIGHTON CENTRE
0870 900 9100
12 BOURNEMOUTH BIC
01202 456 456

All tickets £20.00 adv. except London: £22.50 adv. Tickets subject to booking fee. Buy on-line: www.gigsandtours.com

A Metropolis Music, SJM Concerts, Clear Channel Entertainment and DF Concerts presentation by arrangement with Helter Skelter

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Metropolis Music & DF Concerts by arrangement with Helter Skelter present

Hot Rize & Friends

FEATURING

ALABAMA 3

THE LARRY LOVE SHOWBAND

MEMPHIS 9

December 2003

02	WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL	01902 582 121
03	SOUTHAMPTON BROOK	023 8055 5366
04	OXFORD ZODIAC	01865 420 042
05	YORK FIBBERS	0870 907 0999
06	GLASGOW ACADEMY	0870 169 0100
08	LEEDS COCKPIT	0113 245 5570
09	LIVERPOOL BARFLY	0115 912 9000
10	NORWICH WATERFRONT	01603 508 090
11	BRIGHTON CONCORDE	01273 772 770
12	LONDON ASTORIA	020 7403 3331
13	SHEFFIELD LEADMILL	0870 010 4555
14	NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS	0115 958 8484

All tickets subject to booking fee. Buy online www.gigsandtours.com
Roll up brothers, Roll up Sisters. New album 'The Last Train To Mashville'

For exclusive live announcements and priority booking go to: www.gigsandtours.com

The new single
10.11.03
www.razorlight.co.uk

RAZORLIGHT
RIP IT UP

04.11 London Macon Riddler
04.12 Dublin Ambassador
05.12 Belfast Waterfront
07.12 Glasgow Academy
08.12 Manchester Academy
09.12 Bristol Academy
11.12 Birmingham Academy
12.12 London Brixton Academy

21.10 Nottingham Rescue Rooms
23.10 Northumbria Uni
24.10 Glasgow Garage
25.10 London Barfly
28.10 Manchester Uni
29.10 Norwich Waterfront
30.10 Birmingham Academy 2
31.10 Sheffield Leadmill
02.11 Bristol Reeze
03.11 Brighton Concorde

With The Ballroom
With The Raveonettes
MTV2 Gonzo night with
Electric Soft Parade
with Suede

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER
EAT YOUR OWN EARS AND FRANZ FERDINAND PRESENT
THE CHATEAU with
FRANZ FERDINAND
PINK GREASE | JOY ZIPPER | BLOC PARTY | I LOVE LUCY | ART INSTALLATIONS
DJ STUART BRAITHWAITE (MOGWAI) | DJ RUTH | LADYTRON DJS
Electrowerkz 7 Torrens St London EC1 Angel Tube Doors 9pm-4am/5am Tickets £9 adv

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER
EAT YOUR OWN EARS AND MEAN FIDDLER PRESENT
STEPHEN MALKMUS
& THE JICKS | QUASI | ARCHIE BRONSON OUTFIT
Shepherds Bush Empire London W12 Doors 7pm Tickets £14 adv

Tickets can be bought from: WWW.MEANFIDDLER.COM WWW.TICKETWEB.CO.UK WWW.DOMINORECORDCO.COM WWW.WAYAHEAD.COM
24HR CC HOT LINES t 08701 500 044 t 0207 240 0105 t 0207 734 8932 t 0208 354 3500 t 020 8563 0540 WWW.WORLDSOPPOSSIBILITY.COM
WWW.EATYOUROWNEARS.COM Part of Domino 10th Anniversary WORLDS OF POSSIBILITY All tickets subject to booking fee

The Duke Spirit

with 22-20's

OCTOBER
Mon 20th LEICESTER Sumo
Tues 21st NOTTINGHAM Social
Wed 22nd GLASGOW King Tuts
Thurs 23rd SHEFFIELD University
Sat 25th MANCHESTER Hop and Grape
Sun 26th LIVERPOOL Barfly
Mon 27th BIRMINGHAM Academy 2
NOVEMBER
Tues 4th LONDON ULU

with THE KILLS

OCTOBER
Wed 29th BRISTOL Fleece
Thurs 30th OXFORD Zodiac
Fri 31st NOTTINGHAM Rescue Rooms
NOVEMBER
Sun 2nd EDINBURGH The Venue
Mon 3rd NEWCASTLE University
Thurs 6th LEEDS Cockpit
Fri 7th LIVERPOOL University
Sat 8th SHEFFIELD Leadmill

Debut ep 'Roll, Spirit, Roll' out now.
www.cityrockers.net www.dukespirit.com

Transcopic Records by arrangement with MIM present
MOWER
+ guests

NOVEMBER:
SATURDAY 1st Newport Le Pub Tel: 01633221477
SUNDAY 2nd Bristol Louisiana Tel: 01179265078
MONDAY 3rd Exeter Cavern Tel: 01392425309
TUESDAY 4th Birmingham Academy Tel: 08707712000
WEDNESDAY 5th Northampton Soundhaus Tel: 01604250808
FRIDAY 7th Tunbridge Wells Forum Tel: 01892547702
TUESDAY 11th London Buffalo Bar Tel: 02073596191
WEDNESDAY 12th Liverpool Uni Tel: 01512565555
THURSDAY 13th Sheffield Uni Tel: 01142228777
FRIDAY 14th Lincoln Bivouac Tel: 01522539883
SATURDAY 15th Newcastle Uni Tel: 01912612620
TUESDAY 18th Southampton Joiners Tel: 02380225612

The New Album 'PEOPLE ARE CRUEL' out now on Transcopic Records
www.mower.tv www.transcopic.com

Zoot Woman
Tour 2003
October

zootwoman.co.uk
wallofsound.net

23 Sheffield, The Fez
24 Edinburgh, Bongo Club •
25 Leeds, Cockpit •
27 Northampton, Soundhaus •
28 Birmingham, Academy 3 •
29 Manchester, Roadhouse
30 London, Cargo •
31 Liverpool, Nation (Bugged Out) •
• Plus support Scissor Sisters

Zoot Woman
'Zoot Woman'
Out now
CD/LP

Metropolis presents
Scout Niblett Plus ILL EASE
Thursday 30 October
Union Chapel Studio Theatre, Compton Terrace, London N1
The new single 'I'll be a Prince' out 27/10/03 taken from the album 'I Am'.
Tickets £7 adv. available from: Stargreen 0207 734 8932,
Way Ahead 0207 403 3331, Ticketmaster 0207 344 4040
Buy online at www.gigsandtours.com
www.toopure.com

sense
<2003>
THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER
THE GARAGE
DOORS 8PM TICKETS £10(ADV) / £12 (on the door)
20-22 HIGHBURY CORNER, LONDON N5 (OPPOSITE HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON TUBE STATION - VICTORIA LINE)
Box Office: 020 7344 0044 (24hr) www.meanfiddler.com www.ticketmaster.co.uk *SUBJECT TO BOOKING FEE

the blueskins
the magic road ep
out 10.11.03 on 5-track cd + gatefold 2 x 7"
27.10 BRIGHTON Corn Exchange Radio 1 One Live
28.10 PETERBOROUGH Metro Lounge
29.10 BRISTOL Fleece & Firkin w/The Kills
30.10 OXFORD Zodiac w/The Kills
31.10 NOTTINGHAM Rescue Rooms w/The Kills
01.11 YORK Fibbers Gonzo/Barfly Tour
w/The Futureheads & The Beatings
www.dominorecordco.com www.theblueskins.com

AZURE RAY
New album "Hold On Love" Out Now / www.saddle-creek.com
28 OCTOBER - The Social, Nottingham
29 OCTOBER - 93 Feet East, London
30 OCTOBER - Jug of Ale, Birmingham
31 OCTOBER - Polish Club, Bristol (w/Nina Nastasia)
01 NOVEMBER - Rota, London (w/Her Space Holiday)

joy zipper
Friday October 24: The Chateau
@ Electrowerkz (with Franz Ferdinand)
Friday November 7:
Queens of Noize @ Camden Barfly
Tuesday November 11:
+ Madame Jo Jos
Saturday November 15:
Rough Trade store, Covent Garden, 1pm
Monday December 1:
Hammersmith Apollo (with Turin Brakes)
THE STEREO AND GOD
mini album released
november 10th
www.joyzipper.tv

read yellow
LIVE IN OCTOBER
Mon 27th Junction, Cambridge w/Funeral For A Friend
Tue 28th Buffalo Bar, Islington w/The Fiery Furnaces
Wed 29th Barfly, Camden, London NME pres. w/Bumblebeez
Available now:
READ YELLOW EP
the explosive debut
4 track EP
released through
Fenway Recordings.
WWW.READYELLOW.COM
WWW.FENWAYRECORDINGS.COM

TICKETS AVAILABLE
GOLDFRAPP 28th October
TINDERSTICKS 30th October
N.E.R.D. 9th November
FEEDER 10th December
BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB 13th November
THE CORAL 20th November
BLONDIE 26th November
ERYKAH BADU 1st December
TURIN BRAKES 1st December
NICKELBACK 7, 8 December
SHERYL CROW 7-8 December
FLEETWOOD MAC 10th December
BASEMENT JAXX 10, 11, 12, 13 December
SUEDE 12th December
BELLE & SEBASTIAN 3, 4 December
MEAN FIDDLER, GARAGE, BARFLY + BORDERLINE PERSONAL CALLERS WELCOME
ALL LONDON GIGS BOOKABLE. SEND S.A.E. FOR GIG LISTS
STARGREEN BOX OFFICE 20/21A ARGYLL ST, LONDON W1V 1AA WWW.STARGREEN.COM
CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 020 7734 8932

BOOM BOOM SATELLITES
Photon album UK tour dates
25.10.03 - The Fez Club, Sheffield
26.10.03 - King Tuts, Glasgow
27.10.03 - Liverpool University, Liverpool
28.10.03 - The Vine, Eastgate, Leeds
29.10.03 - The 100 Club, London
www.bbs-net.com
www.differentrecords.co.uk
Different

KERRANG!
K-FEST 2003

MACHINE HEAD
Plus Special Guests
Thu 27th / Fri 28th November
LONDON ASTORIA

ANATHEMA
Saturday 6th December
LONDON MEAN FIDDLER

MONSTER MAGNET
Plus Special Guests Danko Jones
Sunday 7th December
LONDON ASTORIA

TURBONEGRO
Monday 8th December LONDON MEAN FIDDLER

THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN
Plus Special Guests Cult Of Luna Beecher & JR Ewing
Sunday 14th December LONDON MEAN FIDDLER
In association with Mean Fiddler

Million Dead
Plus Special Guests Minus & Jarcrew
Tuesday 2nd December LONDON GARAGE

K-FEST CLUB TOUR (OVER 14'S ONLY)
Danko Jones ELECTRIC EEL SHOCK
APARTMENT 26 THE SUFFRAJETS
+Local heroes decided by kerrang!

December		
Wed 10	Glasgow Garage	0870 169 1000
Thu 11	Manchester Academy 3	0161 832 1111
Fri 12	Birmingham Academy 2	0870 771 2000
Sat 13	London Mean Fiddler	08701 500 044

Tickets: £6.00 regionally £6.50 London

hellis for heroes
Thursday 11th December
LONDON ASTORIA

MONDO GENERATOR
Monday 15th December
LONDON MEAN FIDDLER
In association with Metropolis Music

poison the well
Plus Special Guests
Wednesday 17th December
LONDON MEAN FIDDLER

pretty girls make graves
Plus Guests KAITO and THERMALS
Thursday 18th December
LONDON MEAN FIDDLER

CKY
Thursday 4th December
SOLD OUT
MEAN FIDDLER
In association with SOLO

The Darkness
Plus Special Guests
Saturday 6th December
SOLD OUT
BRIXTON
CARLING ACADEMY

NEBULA
Plus Special Guests Winnebago Deal
Friday 12th December
LONDON MEAN FIDDLER
In association with Metropolis Music

INME
Plus Special Guests
Thursday 18th December
LONDON ASTORIA

HIM
Plus Special Guests
Friday 19th December
LONDON ASTORIA

ARCH ENEMY
Plus Special Guests Akercocke
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE ORIGINAL TICKETS REMAIN VALID
Sunday 21st December
LONDON MEAN FIDDLER

BOX OFFICE : 08701 500 044 (24HRS) A CLEAR CHANNEL AND KERRANG PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH HELTER SKELTER, THE AGENCY GROUP & ITB

CLEAR CHANNEL ENTERTAINMENT
Credit Card Hotline: 0870 400 0688 (24hrs)
Buy on line at cclive.co.uk and subscribe to receive up-to-date gig listings, exclusive offers and competitions.
www.cclive.co.uk ticketmaster

CLINIC

UK DATES WITH THE FLAMING LIPS
23 OCT PLYMOUTH PAVILION
24 OCT BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
26 OCT CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA
27 OCT LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
28 OCT MANCHESTER APOLLO
29 OCT SHEFFIELD CITY HALL
03 NOV LONDON HAMMERSMITH APOLLO

THE ALBUM WALKING WITH THEE AVAILABLE NOW
WWW.CLINICONLINE.ORG WWW.DOMINORECORDCO.COM

THE NAKED APES
sept/oct uni tour

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	OCTOBER cont'd
17 - LINCOLN - UNIVERSITY, Riseholme 07973 559 203	01 - CARDIFF - UNI HOSPITAL 07814 423 838	16 - CARDIFF - UWIC SU 2920 641 010
19 - IPSWICH - SUFFOLK COLLEGE 07973 559 203	02 - BOURNEMOUTH - UNI SU 07973 559 203	17 - EGHAM - ROYAL HOLLOWAY SU 01784 486 317
20 - FARNHAM - SURREY INST. SU 01252 710 263	03 - READING - BULMERSHE JCR 07973 559 203	20 - LIVERPOOL - ACADAMY 0151 256 555 / 0151 709 4321
22 - LONDON - ST MARY'S SU 07973 559 203	05 - COVENTRY - UNIVERSITY SU 02476 571 225	23 - PORTSMOUTH - UNIVERSITY SU 02392 843 640
23 - BIRMINGHAM - UCE 07973 559 203	09 - LONDON - ULU, Malet St (14+) 08700 600 100	27 - CARDIFF - UNIVERSITY SU 02920 781 458
25 - DEVON - BICTON COLLEGE 07973 559 203	10 - CHICHESTER - UCCSU 07973 559 203	30 - HUDDERSFIELD - UNIVERSITY SU 07973 559 203
26 - PLYMOUTH - UNIVERSITY SU 01752 663 337	11 - PRESTON - CENTRAL LANC SU 01772 513 200	NOV 01 - BRADFORD - COLLEGE SU
27 - BRISTOL - UWE SU 0117 344 2577	12 - CHESTER UNIVERSITY SU 07973 559 203	
30 - GUILFORD - UNIVERSITY SU 07973559203	13 - BRADFORD - UNIVERSITY SU 07973559203	

All Gigs 18+, NUS & Guests Only
EXCEPT Mon 6 Oct - ULU - 14+

WWW.THENAKEDAPES.COM

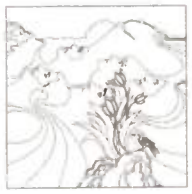
ALFIE Live

Supporting Athlete

22 October Southampton 'University'
23 October Brighton 'Concorde 2'
24 October London 'Shepherds Bush Empire'

Supporting The Flaming Lips

31 October Birmingham 'Academy'
2 November Brighton 'Centre'
4 November London 'Hammersmith Apollo'
7 November Newcastle 'City Hall'
8 November Glasgow 'Academy'
9 November Edinburgh 'Usher Hall'



The New Album
Do You Imagine Things?
Out Now

www.alfie.net

JET SIGNING TOUR AT HMV

MON 27 OCT	5PM	GLASGOW ARGYLE
TUES 28 OCT	5PM	NEWCASTLE
WED 29 OCT	5PM	SHEFFIELD HIGH
THUR 30 OCT	5PM	LIVERPOOL
MON 03 NOV	5PM	NORWICH
WED 05 NOV	5PM	BRIGHTON CHURCHILL

GIG GUIDE

FOR TICKETS RING THE NME TICKETLINE ON 0870 1 663 663 OR SEE www.nmetickets.com

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST AND BEST GIG GUIDE WITH OVER 400 EVENTS EVERY WEEK

Edited by Zane

FROM FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 TO THURSDAY OCTOBER 30

Friday 24

BIRMINGHAM
Biomechanical/Fourwaykill/Infobia Edwards No 8 0121 643 5835
Sikth/Hondo MacLean Academy 2 0121 262 3000

BOURNEMOUTH
The Flaming Lips/Clinic International Centre 01202 456456

DUBLIN
Ikeaboy Traffic 00 3531 873 4800

EDINBURGH
Zoot Woman/Scissor Sisters Bongo Club 0131 558 7604

GLASGOW
Terry Callier/Willis Arches 0141 221 4001
Chikinki/Kilo/The Shores King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
◇ **Jetplane Landing/Fickle Public** Cathouse 0141 248 6606
Ozzy Osbourne/HIM SECC 0141 248 3000
◇ **The Raveonettes/Razorlight/The Boxer Rebellion** Garage 0141 332 1120
Super Furry Animals/Dead Meadow Academy 0870 771 2000

HIGH WYCOMBE
Mercury Tilt Switch/Closer/Dive Dive White Horse 01494 527672

LEICESTER
The Barbs/Silverman Sumo 0116 285 6536
◇ **The BellRays** Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
Amsterdam Zanzibar 0151 707 1558
Thea Gilmore Stanley Theatre, Academy 2 0151 709 9108
Laika Dog/The Moon/Cassidy Cavern Club 0151 236 1964
London Elektricity/The Bays Masque 0151 708 8708

LONDON
Athlete/Alfie/Repairman Shepherds Bush Empire W12 0870 771 2000
The Bandits Malet Street ULU WC1 020 7664 2000
Bullet Galloway/Tennason/Nemo Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Einherjer/Reign Of Erebus/Adorior/Acolytes Ruin Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Tav Falco's Panther Burns/Naked Ruby Tufnell Park Boston Arms N19 020 7272 8153
◇ **Franz Ferdinand/Cleartake/Pink Grease** Angel Electrowerkz EC1 020 7837 6419
The Herbaliser/Transcargo Old Street Cargo EC2 020 7613 7731
Junkbox/Dragster/The Process Farringdon Betsey Trotwood EC1 020 7253 4285
Louder Than Bombs Highbury Corner Upstairs At The Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Mashtun Grace/Reverse/Seventaw/The Lovelies Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Mogwai/Bardo Pond Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
The Sextones/Little White Lie/New Rhodes King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7436 7211
Damo Suzuki/The Others Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 2095

MANCHESTER
Aura Sun Ashton Under Lyne, Witchwood 0161 344 0321
◇ **Goldfrapp** University, MDH 0161 275 2930

MANSFIELD
◇ **The Futureheads** Town Mill 01623 632451

MIDDLESBROUGH
3 Inches Of Blood/The Clams Cornerhouse 01642 253053

NEWQUAY
DJ Format Koola Bar 01637 873415

NORWICH
Jet Johnson/Magoo/Beachbuggy Arts Centre 01603 660352

NOTTINGHAM
Luke Vibert Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

PLYMOUTH
Def Leppard/Must/Ricky Warwick Pavilions 01752 229922

PORTH
◇ **Funeral For A Friend** Pop Factory 01443 688500

PRESTON
The Bluetones Mill 01772 885799

ROMFORD
Number One Son Tek 01708 744334

SCUNTHORPE
Tribute To Nothing/Pesci/Midasuno Baths Hall 01724 842332

SHEFFIELD
◇ **Hundred Reasons/Instruction/Garrison** Leadmill 0114 221 2828

SWANSEA
Bowling For Soup/Farse Patti Pavilion 01792 654226

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
◇ **Oceansize/Candyheads** Forum 01892 530411

WORCESTER
Jimbob Marr's Bar 01905 613336

Saturday 25

ABERDEEN
Terry Callier/Willis Lemon Tree 01224 642230
Tribute To Nothing/Midasuno Kef 01224 639546

BIRMINGHAM
◇ **The Bandits** Academy 2 0121 262 3000
Punish The Atom/Distophia/The Grips Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BOURNEMOUTH
The Jeevas Villa 01202 551802

BRISTOL
Beachbuggy Louisiana 0117 926 5978

CARDIFF
◇ **Funeral For A Friend/Million Dead/Kingsway/Billy Talent** Barfly 029 2066 7658

DUBLIN
Plaid/Decal/Panacea Guinness Storehouse 00 3531 456 9569
◇ **The Raveonettes/The Boxer Rebellion** Whelans 00 3531 475 9372
Tomahawk Ambassador Theatre 00 3531 456 9569

EDINBURGH
3 Inches Of Blood/Errata/The Clams Venue 0131 557 3073

EXETER
◇ **The BellRays** Cavern Club 01392 495370
Hawkwind Phoenix 01392 667080

FORFAR
◇ **Jetplane Landing/Fickle Public** Loft 01343 543778

GLASGOW
Demented Are Go/Heartbreak Engines Barfly 0870 907 0999
Thea Gilmore/Adam Masterson King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
◇ **Hundred Reasons/Instruction/Garrison** Garage 0141 332 1120
Rilo Kiley/Longwave Nice'n'Sleazy 0141 333 9637

HASTINGS
The Vaults Crypt 01424 444675

HIGH WYCOMBE
Kids Near Water/Jerry Built/Copperpot Journals White Horse 01494 527672

HULL
The Bluetones Wellington 01482 221676

IVYBRIDGE
Jimbob Rugby Club 01752 894392

LEEDS
Dexys Midnight Runners Grand Theatre 0113 222 6222
Public Enemy Granary Wharf 0113 244 6570
◇ **Super Furry Animals/Dead Meadow** University 0113 244 4600
Zoot Woman/Scissor Sisters Cockpit 0113 244 3446

LONDON
The Above/The Unchosen/The Echoes Fulham King's Head SW6 020 7736 1413
Athlete/Tahiti 80/Fonda 500 Shepherds Bush Empire W12 0870 771 2000
Caliban/Born From Pain/Settle The Score/Chimaira/Spitfire Down Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
The Divine Brown/Tokyo Dragons/Baschi Tottenham Court Road Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964
Fletcher Kingston Fighting Cocks 020 8546 5174
Laika Dog/The Moon Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Mastermindz/More Tea Vicar Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
The Mission Kentish Town Forum NW5 020 7344 0044
Turning Green/Addicted/Drive By Mash-Up Charing Cross Road Spice Of Life WC2 020 7437 7013
Unknown Pleasures Islington Hope'n'Anchor N1 020 7378 6095
Villarossa Bethnal Green Pleasure Unit E2 07740 290992
Voices/Subterraneans Aldgate East Arts Café E1 020 7247 5681
White Buffalo/Blofeld/Redhouse Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 2095

MANCHESTER
◇ **22-20s/Dogs Die In Hot Cars** University, Hop And Grape 0161 275 2930
Bowling For Soup/Farse Academy 0161 275 2930
The Zans/Sam And Me/Brown Corduroy Express Gardens Hotel 0161 236 5155

NOTTINGHAM
Biomechanical/Fourwaykill/Infobia Junktion 7 0115 970 4662
Number One Son/Future Ex-Wife Rock City 0115 941 2544
The Rain Band Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

OXFORD
◇ **Snow Patrol** Zodiac 01865 420042

SCARBOROUGH
Reuben/Engerica Kazbah 07866 457672

SHEFFIELD
Boom Boom Satellites/Paraguay McKenzie Fez Club 0114 276 6082
The Electric Soft Parade/The Zutons/Kid Symphony Leadmill 0114 221 2828
◇ **Goldfrapp** Foundry 0114 222 8777

STOCKTON
King Creosote/Pip Dylan Georgian Theatre 01642 674115

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Sikth/Hondo MacLean/Flee The Scene Forum 01892 530411

WATFORD
Gambler/Bouncer/My Pet Junkie/Mojo Flag 01923 218413

WHITEHAVEN
Whitmore/Sonic Boom Six Civic Hall 01946 852821

WINCHESTER
B Movie Heroes/Right Turn Clyde Railway Inn 01962 867795

YORK
4Ft Fingers/Crank/Pony Club Fibbers 01904 651250

Sunday 26

BASINGSTOKE
Dexys Midnight Runners Anvil 01256 844244

BELFAST
Aqualung/Duke Special Empire 028 9024 9276
◇ **The Raveonettes/The Boxer Rebellion** Limelight 028 9032 5942

BIRMINGHAM
Def Leppard/Must/Ricky Warwick Academy 0121 262 3000
My War/Aconite Thrill/Godsize Flapper & Firkin 0121 236 2421

BRIGHTON
Do Make Say Think/Berg San Nipple/Fission Ignition Hanbury Ballroom 01273 605789
Lo-Fidelity Allstars/Assam Rifles Concorde 2 01273 207241
◇ **Oceansize** Pressure Point 01273 702333

BRISTOL
Demented Are Go Bierkeller 0117 926 8514
The Jeevas/Nic Armstrong Fleece & Firkin 0117 945 0996

CARDIFF
The Flaming Lips/Clinic International Arena 029 2022 4488
Stephen Malkmus MS1 Club, Engine Room 029 2030 1000

CARLISLE
Tribute To Nothing/Midasuno/Aura Sun Richmond Hall, Brickyard 01228 512220

CHELTENHAM
Jimbob Playhouse 01242 551621

DUBLIN
Paradox/Scion/Tarwater/Laub/Dusk Guinness Storehouse 00 3531 456 9569

EDINBURGH
Chikinki Bongo Club 0131 558 7604

EXETER
Sikth/Hondo MacLean Cavern Club 01392 495370

GLASGOW
Apartment 26/Dionysus/Down Story Barfly 0870 907 0999
Boom Boom Satellites/7 Stone Lighter King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Lapsus Linguae/Mighty Saguaro/Cat On Form 13th Note Café 0141 553 1638

HANLEY
◇ **The Futureheads** Sugarmill 01782 214991

LEEDS
Laika Dog/The Moon Cockpit 0113 244 3446

LEICESTER
Thea Gilmore/Adam Masterson Charlotte 0116 255 3956

LIVERPOOL
◇ **22-20s/Dogs Die In Hot Cars/The Duke Spirit** Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171
Tomahawk University, Mountford Hall 0151 256 5555

LONDON
Captains Of The Citadel/Old Tokyo Croydon Cartoon 020 8239 1616
Defiance/Datora/Celebrities Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
The Electric Soft Parade/The Hiss/Razorlight Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Icon Of Coil/In Strict Confidence/Galan Pix/Mechanical Cabaret/Katscan/The Sepia Charing Cross Road Mean Fiddler WC2 020 7434 0403
Knuckledust/Terror/As8/Last Chance/Uppercut/No Turning Back/Damage Control/The Break In Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Holly Lerski/Cicero Buck Putney Half Moon SW15 020 8780 9383
Moocher/Revivals/Leap Of Faith/Just/The Lazarus Effect Brixton Telegraph SW2 020 8671 5164

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thu 23 project abner bareface + thaed
fri 24 bullet train earnest cox my remedy + balaclava
sat 25 the masterminds bert & the fiction kardomha submacrewman
sun 26 defiance + datora the celebrities
mon 27 eve of mind + wasteland james keen
tue 28 taxi to mars the zipper lost for words

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OCTOBER
24 NEWCASTLE Bulletproof @ Northumbria Uni 0191 227 3791
25 NOTTINGHAM Rescue Rooms 0115 912 9000 / 0115 958 8484
28 SHEFFIELD Leadmill 0870 0104 555
29 HANLEY Sugarmill 01782 206 000
30 LONDON Club Fandango @ The Bull & Gate 020 7424 0407
31 NORTHAMPTON Soundhaus 01604 250898
NOVEMBER
01 MANCHESTER Roadhouse 0161 832 1111
03 BIRMINGHAM Bar Academy 0870 771 2000
04 SOUTHAMPTON Joiners 023 8022 5612
05 LIVERPOOL Academy 3 0151 709 4321 / 0151 256 5555
08 OXFORD Zodiac 01865 420 042
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NME RECOMMENDS

One Trick Pony/Kevin Iverson/ String Theory Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
The Random/Jane Air/TV For Dogs/ Man-Eel Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 2095
Spacek Camden Jazz Café NW1 020 7916 6060
Special Needs Notting Hill Arts Club W11 020 7460 4459

MANCHESTER
Public Enemy University, MDH 0161 275 2930
The Zutons Roadhouse 0161 228 1789

MIDDLESBROUGH
The Bandits Cornerhouse 01642 253053

NEWCASTLE
Funeral For A Friend/Million Dead/ Yourcodenameis:milo University 0191 261 2606
Ozzy Osbourne/HIM Telewest Arena 0870 707 8000

NEWPORT
Plastic Heroes/Daniel Rachel/Clipper TJ's 01633 216608

NOTTINGHAM
Billy Talent Rock City 0115 941 2544
International Pony Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

PETERBOROUGH
4ft Fingers Met Lounge 01733 566100

READING
Snow Patrol Fez Club 0118 958 6839

SHEFFIELD
The Barbs Fez Club 0114 276 6082
Bowling For Soup/Farse Octagon 0114 222 8777

SWANSEA
B Movie Heroes University 01792 295485

SWINDON
Reuben/Engerica/Broken Daylight Furnace 01783 534238

WOLVERHAMPTON
Mercury Tilt Switch/Closer Little Civic 01902 552121

WREXHAM
Whitmore/Sonic Boom Six NEWI, William Aston Hall 01978 292015

YORK
Instruction/Garrison/Minus Fibbers 01904 651250

Monday 27

ABERDEEN
Jetplane Landing/Fickle Public Kef 01224 639546

AYLESBURY
Bowling For Soup/Farse Civic Hall 01296 486009

BIRMINGHAM
22-20s/Dogs Die In Hot Cars Academy 2 0121 262 3000
Tribute To Nothing/Midasuno Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIGHTON
Adam F/Dave Clarke/LFO Concorde 2 01273 207241
The Musk/Hope Of The States/ The Blueskins Com Exchange 01273 709709
Starsailor/The Electric Soft Parade/ Keane Dome 01273 709709

BRISTOL
Biomechanical/Fourwaykill/Infobia Fleece & Firkin 0117 945 0996
Hot Hot Heat/Franz Ferdinand/ Fiery Furnaces University 0117 929 9008

CAMBRIDGE
Funeral For A Friend/Million Dead/ Read Yellow Junction 01223 511511

CARDIFF
Naked Apes University 029 2023 0130
The Vaults/Pin Stripe Mafia/ Magic Dog Barfly 029 2066 7658

DERBY
Number One Son/Future Ex-Wife Victoria Inn 01332 740091

DONCASTER
Def Leppard/Must/Ricky Warwick Dome 01302 370999

DUBLIN
Jello Biafra Temple Bar Music Centre 00 3531 670 9202

GLASGOW
The Bandits/Mountaineers King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Dark Funeral Cathouse 0141 248 6606
Jet/The Hiss/David Viner (*NME* Rock'n'Roll Riot Tour) QMU 0141 339 9784

HIGH WYCOMBE
Oceansize White Horse 01494 527672

LEICESTER
3 Inches Of Blood/The Clams/ David R Black Charlotte 0116 255 3956
The Flaming Lips/Clinic De Montfort Hall 0116 233 3111
Goldfrapp University 0116 223 1169

LIVERPOOL
Boom Boom Satellites/Chikinki University, Academy 3 0151 256 5555
Julian Cope University, Mountford Hall 0151 256 5555
Demented Are Go Stanley Theatre, Academy 2 0151 709 9108

The Futureheads/The Moonies Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171

LONDON
B Movie Heroes/Planet Of Women/ Right Turn Clyde/The Killerest Expression Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Andrew Bird's Bowl Of Fire/Johnson House Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2 020 7734 2095
The Bumblebeez Tottenham Court Road End WC1 020 7419 9199
Dead Meadow/Seachange/Of Arrowe Hill Islington Carling Academy 2 N1 0870 166 3663
Detwilje/Birdman Rally/Newvolution Aldgate East 93 Feet East E1 020 7247 6095
Earl Brutus/Juneau Project Trafalgar Square ICA SW1 020 7930 3647
Eve Of Mind/Wasteland/James Keen Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358
The Flower Kings/Ritual Charing Cross Road Mean Fiddler WC2 020 7434 0403
Kristin Hersh/Joe Henry Barbican Barbican Hall EC2 020 7638 8891
Hundred Reasons/Instruction/ Garrison Malet Street ULU WC1 020 7664 2000
Laptop/Scuba/Screenstar King's Cross Water Rats WC1 020 7436 7211
Stephen Malkmus/Quasi/Archie Bronson Outfit Shepherds Bush Empire W12 0870 771 2000
Mikabomb Notting Hill Arts Club W11 020 7460 4459
Hazel O'Connor Tottenham Court Road Metro Club W1 020 7437 0964
Sean Paul Brixton Academy SW9 0870 771 2000
The Raveonettes/Razorlight Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403
White Buffalo Fulham King's Head SW6 020 7736 1413

MANCHESTER
Christina Aguilera Evening News Arena 0161 950 5000
Dave Gahan Apollo 0870 401 8000
Lostprophets/Eden Maine University, Hop And Grape 0161 275 2930

NEWPORT
Sikth/Hondo MacLean TJ's 01633 216608

NORTHAMPTON
Zoot Woman/Scissor Sisters Soundhaus 01604 250898

NORWICH
Nina Nastasia/The Lovelies Arts Centre 01603 660352

OXFORD
The Jeevas Zodiac 01865 420042

PORTSMOUTH
The BellRays Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

PRESTON
Aura Sun Leo's 01642 487999

SHEFFIELD
Mankato Fez Club 0114 276 6082

SOUTHEND
Snow Patrol Chinnery's 01702 460440

WOLVERHAMPTON
The Barbs Little Civic 01902 552121
Tomahawk Wulfrun Hall 01902 552121

YORK
Apartment 26 Fibbers 01904 651250

Tuesday 28

BIRMINGHAM
Holly Lerski/Cicero Buck Ceol Castle 0121 440 4278
Zoot Woman/Scissor Sisters Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIGHTON
Hot Hot Heat/Franz Ferdinand/The Ordinary Boys Concorde 2 01273 207241
Stephen Malkmus/The Black Keys/ Themselves/Clearlake Corn Exchange 01273 709709
Sean Paul/Dizzee Rascal Dome 01273 709709
The Veils/Kovac/Mojo Fins Escape Club 01273 606906

BRISTOL
Dexys Midnight Runners Colston Hall 0117 922 3683
Tribute To Nothing/Midasuno Croft 0117 903 0796
The Vaults/Steve/Sophomore Fleece & Firkin 0117 945 0996

CAMBRIDGE
Def Leppard/Must/Ricky Warwick Corn Exchange 01223 357851

CARDIFF
3 Inches Of Blood/The Clams/ Apartment 26 Barfly 029 2066 7658

CHESTER
Happylife Essex University 01206 863211
Snow Patrol Soundhouse 01206 562453

DUNDEE
Jetplane Landing/Fickle Public Fat Sam's 01382 228181

GLASGOW
Billy Talent King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279
Lostprophets/Eden Maine Garage 0141 332 1120

HARTLEPOOL
Aura Sun Studio 01429 424440

HOVE
Tomahawk/Beecher Old Market 01273 325440

HULL
King Creosote/Pip Dylan Adelphi 01482 348216

LEEDS
The Bandits/Mountaineers Cockpit 0113 244 3446
Boom Boom Satellites Vine 0113 203 1821
The Futureheads Hi-Fi Club 0113 242 7353

LONDON
Aqualung Charing Cross Villiers Street Theatre WC2 020 7930 6601
The Barbs/Belasco Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
The BellRays Charing Cross Road Mean Fiddler WC2 020 7434 0403
Bluebottle Kiss Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
The Bumblebeez Aldgate East Rhythm Factory E1 020 7247 9386
Fiery Furnaces Highbury Corner Buffalo Bar N1 020 7359 6191
Goldfrapp Hammersmith Apollo W6 0870 606 3400
Hundred Reasons/Minus/ Garrison Malet Street ULU WC1 020 7664 2000
Mark/Bomb 20/Pank DHH/Voltage Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Nina Nastasia/Alasdair Roberts Hammersmith Lyric Theatre W6 0870 050 0511
Rothko/Kelman/Moly Aldgate East Arts Café E1 020 7247 5681
(spunge) Camden Palace NW1 020 7387 0428
Star Chamber/View To The Left/ Mermaid Kickers Putney Half Moon SW15 020 8780 9383
Taxi To Mars/Zipper/Lost For Words Kentish Town Bull & Gate NW5 020 7485 5358

MANCHESTER
The Flaming Lips/Clinic Apollo 0870 401 8000
Instruction Roadhouse 0161 228 1789
Jimbob Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822
The Raveonettes/Razorlight/ The Boxer Rebellion University, MDH 0161 275 2930

NEWCASTLE
Michael Gira/Devendra Banhart Head Of Steam 0191 232 4379
Jet/The Hiss/David Viner (*NME* Rock'n'Roll Riot Tour) University Of Northumbria 0191 232 6002

NORWICH
Aconite Thrill Ferryboat 01603 613553
The Electric Soft Parade/Keane Waterfront 01603 632717

NOTTINGHAM
Azure Ray/Crooked Fingers Social 0115 950 5078
Thea Gilmore Rescue Rooms 0115 958 8484

PETERBOROUGH
Oceansize Park 01733 310383

PORTSMOUTH
Sikth/Fallen To/Hondo MacLean Wedgewood Rooms 023 9286 3911

SMEATHERSS ON SEA
Reuben/Engerica VC Club 0115 912 9000

SHEFFIELD
The Bays/Luke Vibert University 0114 222 8777
The Rain Band Leadmill 0114 221 2828

WARWICK
Bowling For Soup/Farse Arts Centre 024 7652 4524

WREXHAM
Damo Suzuki Yales, Central Station 01978 311857

Wednesday 29

ALDERSHOT
Sikth/Hondo MacLean West End Centre 01252 330040

BELFAST
Stephen Malkmus Limelight 028 9032 5942

BIRMINGHAM
Lostprophets/Eden Maine Academy 2 0121 262 3000
Melt Banana Medicine Bar 0121 693 6001
Number One Son Bar Academy 0121 262 3000

BRIGHTON
The Barbs/Two Sugars/Frock Freebutt 01273 603974

BRISTOL
Hundred Reasons/The Cooper Temple Clause/Funeral For A Friend Dome 01273 709709
Quantic/Ty/Amy Winehouse Concorde 2 01273 207241

BRISTOL
The Kills Fleece & Firkin 0117 945 0996
Damo Suzuki/Fuzz Against Junk Thekla 0117 929 3301

CAMBRIDGE
Dexys Midnight Runners Corn Exchange 01223 357851
Snow Patrol Boat Race 01223 508533

CARDIFF
Thea Gilmore/Adam Masterson Barfly 029 2066 7658

CLEETHORPES
Aconite Thrill Park Lane 01472 230207

DUBLIN
Aim Village 00 3531 475 9372
Moloko Olympia 00 3531 679 3323

EDINBURGH
Bowling For Soup/Farse Liquid Rooms 0131 225 2564
Jetplane Landing/Fickle Public Bongo Club 0131 558 7604

GLASGOW
Michael Gira/Devendra Banhart King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 0141 221 5279

HOVE
Gorky's Zygotic Mynci/Nina Nastasia/ Electrelane Old Market 01273 325440

LEEDS
Chikinki Rocket 0113 244 3446

LIVERPOOL
Apartment 26 Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171
Mighty Saguaro/Youth Movie Soundtrack Strategies Zanzibar 0151 707 1558
Oceansize/Scenes University, Academy 3 0151 256 5555
Orishas Carling Academy 2 0870 771 2000

LONDON
3 Inches Of Blood/The Clams/ Sludgefeast Highbury Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Azure Ray/Crooked Fingers/Immense Aldgate East 93 Feet East E1 020 7247 6095
Beretta/Boutros Boutros/Headstand Camden Dublin Castle NW1 020 7485 1773
Boom Boom Satellites Oxford Street 100 Club W1 020 7636 0933
The Bumblebeez/The Delays/ Read Yellow (*NME* Presents Night) Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
Dark Funeral/Akercocke/Cephalic Carnage/Exhumed King's Cross Scala N1 020 7833 2022
DJ Format Oxford Circus Tantra W1 020 7434 0888
The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster/Tomahawk Kentish Town Forum NW5 020 7344 0044
Dave Gahan Hammersmith Apollo W6 0870 606 3400
Her Space Holiday Aldgate East Arts Café E1 020 7247 5681
Hot Hot Heat/Franz Ferdinand/ Fiery Furnaces Charing Cross Road Astoria WC2 020 7434 0403

mean fiddler presents

the garage
20/22 HIGHBURY CORNER LONDON N5

FRI 24TH OCT CLUB FABULOUS PRESENTS £7/6 WITH FLYER
ELECTRIC +FLEET +THE GRIFTERS +DOMINIQUE + MASU

SAT 25TH OCT KMD MUSIC PRESENTS £7ADV
LAIKA DOG

TUE 28TH OCT CLEAR CHANNEL PRESENTS £10ADV
the BellRays

WED 29TH OCT CLEAR CHANNEL PRESENTS £8ADV
3 Inches of Blood

MON 3RD NOV £9.50ADV
AUGIE MARCH & CARINA ROUND

TUE 4TH NOV UPSTAIRS AT THE GARAGE £8ADV
WHITE HASSLE

THU 6TH NOV £8.50ADV
SENSEFIELD

THU 20TH NOV SJM PRESENTS £8.50ADV
DAVID Kitt

TUE 25TH NOV DOORS 7.30PM £8.50ADV
F-MINUS·FIVE KNUCKLE
JOHN HOLMES · THE MINGERS

THU 27TH NOV £7.50ADV
ten benson

FRI 28TH NOV £8ADV
GOLDBLADE

MON 1ST DEC £8.50ADV
THE DIRTBOMBS
+ THE KILLERS

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THU 4TH £6ADV
CATHY BURTON +CAST OF THOUSANDS +SECRET ARCHIVES OF THE VATICAN
FRI 5TH £6ADV
DRUGDEALER CHEERLEADER +AXLANBAY +TBC +TBC
SAT 6TH DOORS 12.30PM £7ADV
CITIZENS OF POMPEII +WHITE BUFFALO +V-12 +CAINS MARK
SUN 7TH DOORS 4PM 18+ £6ADV
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TUE 9TH DEC £10.50ADV
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Fri 24 EDINBURGH BONGO CLUB *
Sat 25 LEEDS COCKPIT *
Mon 27 NORTHAMPTON SOUNDHOUSE *
Tue 28 BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY *
Thu 30 LONDON CARGO *
Fri 31 LIVERPOOL BUGGED OUT *
NOVEMBER
Sat 01 BRIGHTON CONCORDE
Sun 02 BRISTOL LOUISIANA

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MELT-BANANA
Beecher. Art of Burning Water
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INFO LINE: 020 8963 0940

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THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER
ULU
TICKETS £9ADV FROM C/C: 08701 500 044 (24HRS)

THIS WEEK ◇ NME RECOMMENDS

No Use For A Name/Bigwig/Appease
Charing Cross Road Mean Fiddler WC2
020 7434 0403
Ozzy Osbourne/HIM Wembley Arena
0870 739 0739
Tandy/Oz/Patrick Park
Charing Cross Road Borderline WC2
020 7734 2095

MANCHESTER
◇ **The Bandits/Mountaineers**
Hop And Grape 0161 275 2930
The Locksmiths/Airport Girl
Tmesis 0161 832 1111
Zoot Woman/Scissor Sisters
Roadhouse 0161 228 1789

MERTHYR TYDFIL
Tribute To Nothing/Midasuno
Rooms Club RM's 01685 379770

NEWCASTLE
Laika Dog/The Moon Cluny
0191 230 4475

NORWICH
◇ **The Raveonettes/Razorlight/ The Boxer Rebellion** Waterfront
01603 632717

NOTTINGHAM
Jimbob Forest Tavern, Maze
0115 967 5060
King Creosote/Pip Dylan Social
0115 950 5078

OXFORD
◇ **22-20s/Dogs Die In Hot Cars**
Zodiac 01865 420042

READING
The Electric Soft Parade/Clearlake
Fez Club 0118 958 6839

SCARBOROUGH
◇ **The Futureheads** Kazbah
07886 457672

SHEFFIELD
The Flaming Lips/Clinic City Hall
0114 278 9789
◇ **Jet/The Hiss/David Viner (*NME* Rock'n'Roll Riot Tour)**
Leadmill 0114 221 2828
Mercury Tilt Switch/Closer Casbah
0114 275 6077

ST ALBANS
Mohair/Brink Horn 01727 853143

SWANSEA
Reuben/Engerica Escape Club
01792 652854

SWINDON
Dreadzone Furnace 01793 534238

WOLVERHAMPTON
Billy Talent Little Civic 01902 552121

Thursday 30

ABERDEEN
Demented Are Go/Kartoff/Rockateers
Lemon Tree 01224 642230

BELFAST
Christina Aguilera/Black Eyed Peas
Odyssey 028 9073 9074
Aim Empire 028 9024 9276
Michael Gira/Devendra Banhart
Auntie Annies 028 9050 1660

BIRMINGHAM
◇ **The Raveonettes/Razorlight/ The Boxer Rebellion**
Academy 2 0121 262 3000

BOURNEMOUTH
Def Leppard/Must/Ricky Warwick
International Centre 01202 456456

BRIGHTON
Charlotte Field/The Mutts
Freebutt 01273 603974
◇ **Har Mar Superstar/Dub Pistols (10pm start)** Concorde 2
01273 207241
Jane's Addiction/The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster/Billy Talent
Dome 01273 709709
Mogwai/Melt Banana/Cat On Form
Concorde 2 01273 207241

BRISTOL
Chris T-T/Zoltan Kodaly School For Girls Cube Cinema 0117 907 4190

BURY ST EDMUNDS
The Vaults Prior Inn 01284 748941

CAMBRIDGE
Tribute To Nothing/Midasuno
Boat Race 01223 508533

CARDIFF
◇ **Goldfrapp** University
029 2023 0130
Mohair/The Barbs/Kutosis Barfly
029 2066 7658

CHELMSFORD
Apartment 26/Dai Lo Soundhouse
01245 502453

COVENTRY
◇ **Oceansize** Colosseum
024 7655 4473

DERBY
Intentions Of An Asteroid Gatehouse
01332 292033

DUBLIN
Stephen Malkmus Village
00 3531 475 9372

EXETER
Garrison/Copperpot Journals
Cavern Club 01392 495370

GLASGOW
Maher Shalal Hash Baz School Of Art
0141 353 4530
Randy King Tut's 0141 221 5279

KETTERING
Aconite Thrill Victor Wardmans
01536 603059

LEEDS
Damo Suzuki/Random Number
Brudenell Social Club 0113 243 5866
Youth Movie Soundtrack Strategies
Vine 0113 203 1821

LIVERPOOL
The Hideaways/Terrain
Barfly @ Masque 0151 707 6171
◇ **Jet/The Hiss/David Viner (*NME* Rock'n'Roll Riot Tour)**
Carling Academy 0870 771 2000

LONDON
The Afternoons Notting Hill Arts Club
W11 020 7460 4459
Biomechanical/Fourwaykill/Infobia
Camden Underworld NW1 020 7482 1932
Broken Family Band/Magoo
Aldgate East Spitz E1 020 7392 9032
Julian Cope Hammersmith Lyric Theatre
W6 0870 050 0511
Fast Lane Boogalator Putney Half Moon
SW15 020 8780 9383
Her Space Holiday/The Bumblebeez/ Weevil/Brave Captain/Zan Lyons
Aldgate East Spitz Café E1
020 7247 6095
Instruction/Drive Like You Stole It
Camden Barfly NW1 0870 907 0999
The Jeevas King's Cross Scala N1
020 7833 2022
The Rain Band/Archie Bronson Outfit/ Cable Car Icentish Town Bull & Gate NW5
020 7485 5358
Senser/Number One Son Highbury
Corner Garage N5 020 7607 1818
Tindersticks/Richard Hawley
Hammersmith Apollo W6 0870 606 3400
The Wandering Step/Fiel Garvie
Aldgate East Arts Café E1 020 7247 5681
Zoot Woman/Scissor Sisters Old Street
Cargo EC2 020 7613 7731

MANCHESTER
Angel Brothers/Satnam Singh
Band On The Wall 0161 832 6625
Evanescence Apollo 0870 401 8000
Ill Nino/Spineshank/Chimaira
University, MDH 0161 275 2930
Holly Larski/Cicero Buck/Leif
Night And Day Café 0161 236 1822

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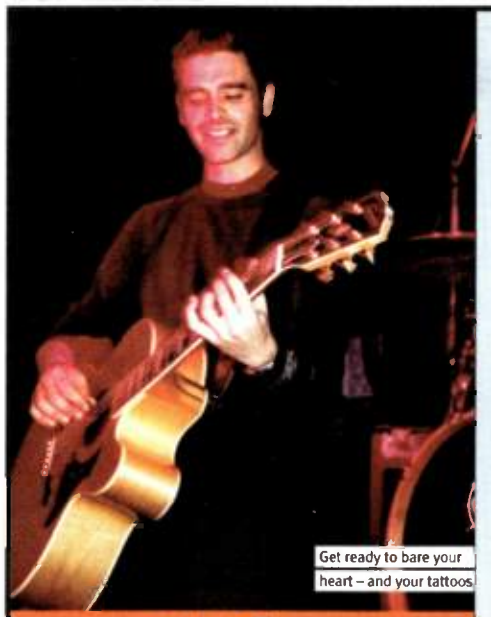

Get ready to bare your heart – and your tattoos

Dashboard Confessional

Tattooed troubadour Chris Carrabba and his band jet in to the UK for a whistlestop tour of bared emotion. Dashboard Confessional's deeply personal album, 'A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar', recently hit Number Two in the States, and current dates over there are being met with rave reviews and rabid support. Mixing rock, punk and Chris' acoustic ardency, Dashboard Confessional takes the emo ethos and twists it into new shapes. Listen out for the single, 'Hands Down', released on November 3, when DC plays Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall (November 5), Glasgow QMU (6), Manchester University, MDH (7) and London Shepherds Bush Empire (8).

!!! London WC2 Mean Fiddler (December 3)

22-20S/DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS Cardiff Barfly (November 1), Southampton Joiners (2), Bristol Fleece & Firkin (3), London WC1 ULU (4)

ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES 2004 Camber Sands Holiday Centre (March 26-28, April 2-4). Acts include Mogwai (March 26), Tortoise (27), Shellac Of North America (28), Stephen Malkmus (April 2), Sonic Youth (3) and Foundation (4)

THE BANDITS Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms (November 3), Oxford Zodiac (4), Exeter Cavern Club (5)

BASEMENT JAXX Bristol Academy (December 3), Birmingham Academy (4), Leeds University (6), Edinburgh Corn Exchange (7), Newcastle University Of Northumbria (8), London Kentish Town Forum (10), London Brixton Fridge (11), London Hammersmith Palais (12), London Hackney Ocean (13)

BELLE & SEBASTIAN Sheffield City Hall (December 2), London WC2 Astoria (3-5), Bath Pavilion (7), Brighton Dome (8), Norwich UEA (9), Newcastle University Of Northumbria (11), Liverpool Royal Court (12), Edinburgh Usher Hall (14)

THE BLACK KEYS Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms (November 17*), Manchester University, Hop And Grape (18), Leeds Cockpit (19), Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (20), Northampton University Of Northumbria (21), London WC2 Mean Fiddler (22), Bristol Fleece & Firkin (23)

BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB Glasgow Barrowlands (November 1), Newcastle University Of Northumbria (2), Manchester Academy

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(3), Sheffield Octagon (4), Leeds Town Hall (5), Birmingham Academy (7), Cardiff University (8), Bristol Academy (9), Nottingham Rock City (10), Norwich UEA (11), London Brixton Academy (13)

BLONDIE Dublin Vicar Street (November 9), Belfast Waterfront (10), Liverpool Carling Academy (11), Leicester De Montfort Hall (12), Cambridge Corn Exchange (14), Birmingham Academy (15), Portsmouth Guildhall (16), Manchester Apollo (18), Glasgow Academy (19), Nottingham Royal Centre (21), Newcastle City Hall (22), Preston Guildhall (23), London Shepherds Bush Empire (25 & 26), Brighton Centre (27)

BLUR Glasgow Barrowlands (November 20-22), Liverpool Royal Court (24), Wolverhampton Civic Hall (25 & 26), Manchester Apollo (28 & 29), London Brixton Academy (December 2-4), Dublin Olympia (7-9), Brighton Centre (11), Bournemouth International Centre (12)

BRITISH SEA POWER Nottingham Rescue Rooms (November 19), Leeds Joseph's Well (20), Lincoln Duke Of Wellington, Bivouac Club (21), Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach (22), High Wycombe BCUC, White Room (24), Northampton Soundhaus (25), Reading Fez Club (26), Colchester Arts Centre (27), Birmingham Academy 2 (28), Warwick University (30)

THE BUMBLEBEEZ Manchester Night And Day Café (November 1)

CHICKS ON SPEED London Islington Carling Academy (November 3), Dublin Whelans (11)

THE COOPER TEMPLE CLAUSE/THE RAVEONETTES/ KASABIAN Bristol Academy (November 16), Norwich Waterfront (17), Glasgow QMU (18), Manchester University, MDH (19), Portsmouth Pyramids Centre (21), London Shepherds Bush Empire (22), Birmingham Academy (23), Leeds Metropolitan University (24)

THE CORAL Newcastle University Of Northumbria (November 16), Glasgow Academy (17), Nottingham Rock City (18), London Brixton Academy (20 & 21), Bristol Academy (22), Brighton Dome (24), Portsmouth Guildhall (25), Manchester Apollo (26), Leeds University (28), Sheffield Octagon (29), Birmingham Academy (30), Belfast Waterfront (December 11)

THE DANDY WARHOLS Liverpool University, Mountfort Hall (November 18), Nottingham Rock City (27), Glasgow Barrowlands (29), London Kentish Town Forum (December 1)

THE DARKNESS Plymouth Pavilions (December 3), Bournemouth International Centre (4), London Brixton Academy (5 & 6), Birmingham Academy (8), Edinburgh Corn Exchange (9), Manchester Apollo (10)

THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN Brighton Concorde 2 (December 8), Birmingham Academy 2 (9), Manchester University, Hop And Grape (10), Bristol Fleece & Firkin (11), Glasgow Cathouse (12), Nottingham Rock City (13), London WC2 Mean Fiddler (14)

THE DISTILLERS Glasgow QMU (November 11), Manchester University, MDH (12), London WC2 Astoria (13), Nottingham Rock City (15)

ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN Dublin Vicar Street (November 26), Glasgow Barrowlands (28), Liverpool Royal Court (29), London Shepherds Bush Empire (30)

ELBOW London Brixton Academy (February 19)

ELECTRIC SIX Newcastle University (November 25), Aberdeen Music Hall (26), Glasgow Barrowlands (27), Liverpool University, Mountford Hall (28), Preston University Of Central Lancashire (29), Norwich UEA (30), Aberystwyth University (December 2), Bournemouth Old Fire Station (3), Leeds Metropolitan University (4), Sheffield University (5), Manchester University, MDH (6), Nottingham Rock City (7), London Brixton Academy (9), Dublin Ambassador Theatre (10), Belfast Queen's University (11), Bristol Bierkeller (12), Cardiff University (13), Plymouth University (15), Oxford Town Hall (16), Birmingham Sanctuary (17), Stoke Staffordshire University (18)

THE ELECTRIC SOFT PARADE Leicester Charlotte (October 31), Leeds Cockpit (November 1), Oxford Zodiac (2), Newcastle University Of Northumbria (4), Aberdeen Lemon Tree (5), Edinburgh Liquid Rooms (6), Liverpool Carling Academy (7), Preston Mill (8), Birmingham Academy 2 (10), Bristol Fleece & Firkin (11), London WC2 Astoria (with British Sea Power, 12)

FEEDER Glasgow SECC (December 6), Birmingham NIA (8), London Wembley Arena (10), Bournemouth International Centre (11), Belfast Waterfront (15)

THE FLAMING LIPS Birmingham Academy (October 31), Brighton Centre (November 2), London Hammersmith Apollo (3 & 4), Newcastle City Hall (7), Glasgow Academy (8), Edinburgh Usher Hall (9)

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND Swansea Patti Pavilion (November 6)

MICHAEL GIRA/DEVENDRA BANHART Cork Lobby Bar (November 1), Leicester Music Café (3), Nottingham Rescue Rooms (4), Bristol Thekla (5)

GRANDADDY Glasgow Academy (November 7), Manchester Academy (8), Leeds Metropolitan University (10), Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall (11), Newcastle University (12), Brighton Corn Exchange (December 7), Norwich Waterfront (8), Portsmouth Pyramids Centre (9), London Brixton Academy (10)

HAR MAR SUPERSTAR London WC1 ULU (November 6)

HELL IS FOR HEROES Preston University Of Central Lancashire (December 9), Birmingham Academy 2 (10), London WC2 Astoria (11), Liverpool Carling Academy (13), Glasgow Garage (14)

HOT HOT HEAT/FRANZ FERDINAND Liverpool Barfly Masque (October 31), Sheffield Leadmill (November 1), Manchester University, MDH (2), Newcastle University (3), Glasgow QMU (4), Nottingham Rock City (5), Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall (6)

JANE'S ADDICTION London Brixton Academy (October 31), Manchester Apollo (November 2), Doncaster Dome (3), Glasgow Academy (5), Nottingham Rock City (7), Wolverhampton Civic Hall (9), London Hammersmith Apollo (12)

THE KILLS Nottingham Rescue Rooms (October 31), Edinburgh Venue (November 2), Newcastle University Of Northumbria (3), Manchester University, Hop And Grape (4), Leeds Cockpit (6), Liverpool Stanley Theatre, Academy 2 (7), Sheffield Leadmill (8)

BEYONCE KNOWLES Manchester Evening News Arena (November 3), Sheffield Arena (7), Newcastle Telewest Arena (9), London Wembley Arena (10 & 11), Birmingham NEC (13), Dublin Point (15), Belfast Odyssey (17)

LINKIN PARK Glasgow SECC (November 20), Manchester Evening News Arena (21), London Wembley Arena (22), Birmingham NIA (24), Cardiff International Arena (25)

LOSTPROPHETS London Islington Carling Academy (October 31), Newport TJ's (November 1)

MARILYN MANSON/PEACHES Birmingham NEC (November 23), Manchester Evening News Arena (25), London Wood Green Alexandra Palace (26)

THE MARS VOLTA Glasgow QMU (November 19), Manchester University, MDH (20), Nottingham Rock City (22), London WC2 Astoria (23)

METALLICA London Earls Court Exhibition Hall (December 19 & 20)

MILLION DEAD Southampton Joiners (November 23), Brighton Freebutt (24), Oxford Zodiac (25), Manchester Roadhouse (26), Sheffield Fez Club (27), Glasgow Cathouse (28), Leeds Cockpit (29), Bristol Louisiana (30), London Highbury Corner Garage (December 2)

MUSE/ELBOW Glasgow SECC (November 25), London Wembley Arena (27), Nottingham Arena (28), Manchester Evening News Arena (29), Cardiff International Arena (December 1), Birmingham NEC (3), Brighton Centre (4), Bournemouth International Centre (5), Exeter Westpoint Arena (7)

MY MORNING JACKET London WC2 Mean Fiddler (November 20), Manchester University, Hop And Grape (22), Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (23), Nottingham Rescue Rooms (24), Brighton Concorde 2 (25)

NELLY Manchester Evening News Arena (November 7), London Wembley Arena (8 & 9), Belfast Odyssey (11), Dublin Point (12), Cardiff International Arena (14), Sheffield Arena (17), Birmingham NEC (18)

NERD Manchester Apollo (November 7), London Brixton Academy (9)

NME PRESENTS KING OF LEON/BEN KWELLER London Brixton Academy (December 11), Southampton Guildhall (13), Birmingham Academy (14), Dublin Olympia (16), Manchester Academy (17), Nottingham Rock City (18), Bristol Academy (21), Glasgow Academy (22)

NME ROCK'N'ROLL RIOT TOUR FEATURING JET/ THE KISS/DAVID VINER Manchester University, MDH (November 1), Birmingham Academy 2 (2), Norwich Waterfront (3), Brighton Concorde 2 (5), London WC2 Astoria (6), Bristol Anson Rooms (7)

PRETTY GIRLS MAKE GRAVES Oxford Zodiac (December 15), Nottingham Rescue Rooms (16), Manchester University, Hop And Grape (17), London WC2 Mean Fiddler (18), Brighton Freebutt (19)

PRIMAL SCREAM Glasgow Academy (January 17), Manchester Apollo (18), Birmingham Academy (20), Southampton Guildhall (21), London Hammersmith Apollo (23)

RADIO 1 LIVE Acts include Basement Jaxx at Brighton Beach (October 31) and Turbonegro/ Winnebago Deal/Million Dead at Hove Old Market (November 1)

RADIOHEAD Manchester Evening News Arena (November 22), Newcastle Telewest Arena (23), Cardiff International Arena (24), London Earls Court Exhibition Hall (26 & 27), Nottingham Arena (29), Glasgow SECC (30), Aberdeen ECC (December 1), Dublin Point (3 & 4)

THE RAVEONETTES Sheffield Leadmill (October 31), Bristol Fleece & Firkin (November 2), Brighton Concorde 2 (3), London WC2 Mean Fiddler (4)

THE STROKES Glasgow Braehead Arena (December 1), Cardiff International Arena (3), London Wood Green Alexandra Palace (5 & 6)

SUEDE Belfast Waterfront (December 5), Glasgow Academy (7), Manchester Academy (8), Bristol Academy (9), Birmingham Academy (11), London Brixton Academy (12)

THE THRILLS London Shepherds Bush Empire (November 24), Hull University (25), Lancaster Sugarhouse (26), Bristol University (28), Oxford Brookes University (29), Stoke Keele University (30), Limerick Dolans Warehouse (December 15), Galway Radisson (16), Castlebar Royal Theatre (17), Belfast Ulster Hall (18), Derry Nerve Centre (20), Dublin Olympia (21)

TRAVIS London Wood Green Alexandra Palace (December 20)

TURBONEGRO London WC2 Mean Fiddler (December 8), Newport TJ's (9), Aberdeen Lemon Tree (10), Glasgow Garage (11), Manchester University, Hop And Grape (12), Nottingham Rescue Rooms (13), Dublin Temple Bar Music Centre (14), Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms (15)

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30 NORWICH Playhouse	01603 598 598	20 MANCHESTER Opera Hou	0870 401 9000	14 CANTERBURY Gulbenkian	01227 769 075	03 LONDON Carling Apollo Hammersmith	0870 606 3400
OCTOBER		22 SHEFFIELD Memorial Hall	0114 278 9789	15 BOURNEMOUTH Pavilion Theatre	01202 456 456	www.ccllve.co.uk · www.ticketmaster.co.uk	
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12 LOWESTOFT Marina Theatre	01502 533 200	03 DERBY Assembly Rooms	01332 255 800	25 LEEDS City Varieties	0113 243 0808	17 LONDON UCL Bloomsb	020 7388 8822
13 NOTTINGHAM Playhouse	0115 941 9419	04 WESTON SUPER MARE Playhouse	01934 645 544	26 LEEDS City Varieties	0113 243 0808	18 LONDON UCL Bloomsb	020 7388 8822
14 BRIGHTON Paramount Come ival	01273 709 709	05 WESTON SUPER MARE Playhouse	01934 645 544	27 LEEDS City Varieties	0113 243 0808	19 LONDON UCL Bloomsb	020 7388 8822
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07	SUNDERLAND Empire	0191 514 2517
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08, 09	IPSWICH Regent Theatre	01473 433 100
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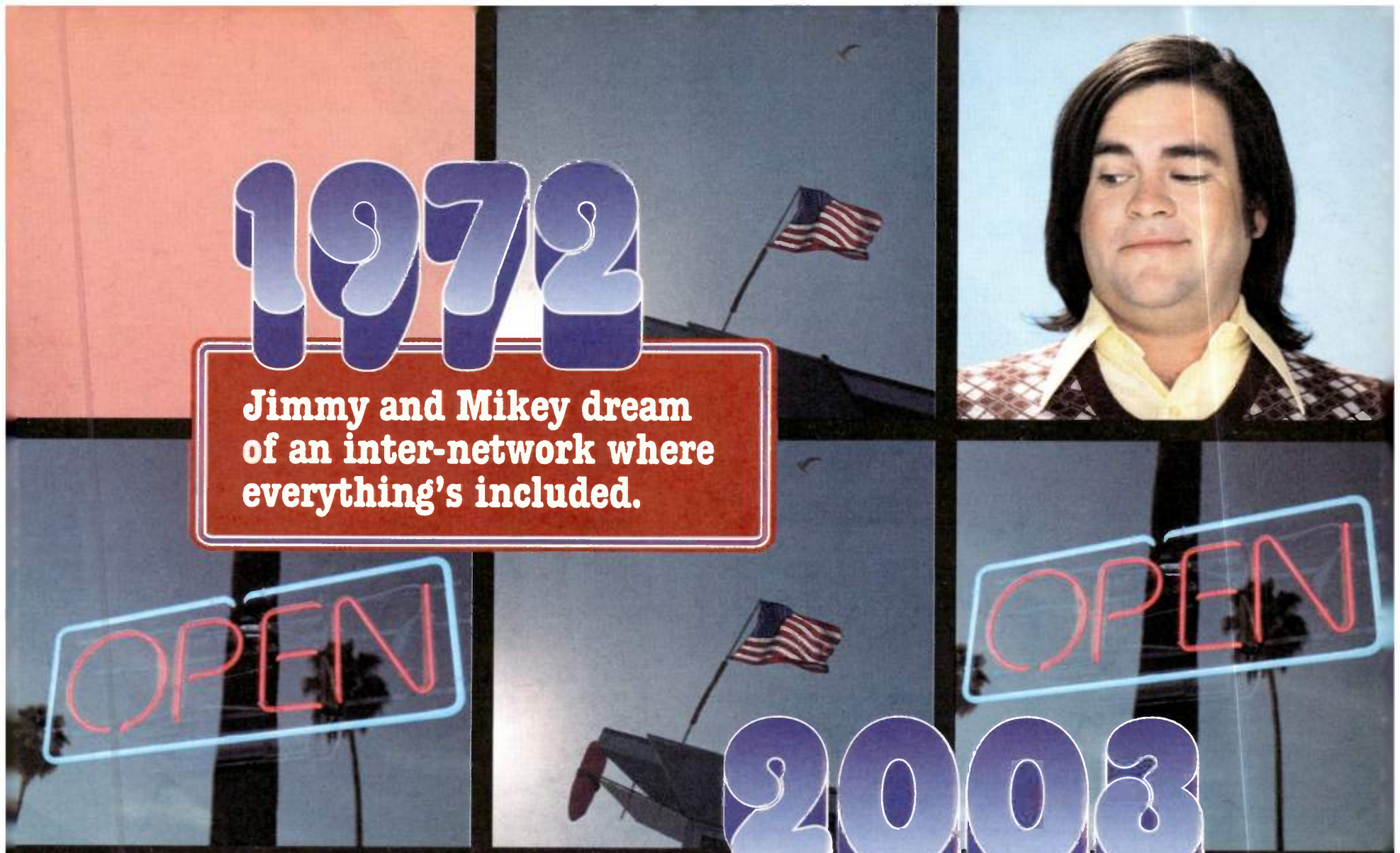

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THE REVIEWS ALBUMS

THE WEEK'S DISCS GET PUT THROUGH THE NME GRINDER

All albums released Monday October 27

REM: on automatic pilot for the people

TAKING THE MICHAEL

REM

In Time: The Best Of REM 1988-2003 Warners

6

Tracklisting

1 Man On The Moon
2 The Great Beyond
3 Bad Day
4 What's The Frequency, Kenneth?
5 All The Way To Reno (You're Gonna Be A Star)
6 Losing My Religion
7 E-Bow The Letter
8 Orange Crush
9 Imitation Of Life
10 Daysleeper
11 Animal
12 The Sidewinder Sleeps Tonight
13 Stand
14 Electrolite
15 All The Right Friends
16 Everybody Hurts
17 At My Most Beautiful
18 Nightswimming

What, no 'Shiny Happy People'? Just one fault of this all-too-revealing document of REM's creative rise and fall

The borderline between evergreen alt.rock elder statesmen and deathless careerist dinosaurs is often very hazy. REM were a vital cultural force when they first signed to a major label 15 years ago after a fertile, promise-filled apprenticeship as America's answer to The Smiths. Michael Stipe's gangly crew virtually invented 'alternative' rock. When the US media was awash with mullet-haired metal clowns, Stipe and co offered a genuine antidote to Reagan/Thatcher macho triumphalism that was intelligent, bookish, sexually ambivalent and steeped in a quasi-literary Americana.

REM laid much of the groundwork for Nirvana and Sonic Youth, Beck and the Pixies. Taken from 'Green', their 1988 breakthrough, 'Stand' is anthemic and bouncy, a skewed state-of-the-nation address disguised as a *Sesame Street* singalong. 'Orange Crush' is more menacing, its headlong melody spiked with Stipe's descending, minor-chord harmonies. Cerebral and opaquely political, they use folk-rock traditionalism like a Trojan horse.

When grunge raged and howled, REM went eloquently quiet, applauding the punk spirit while retreating even deeper into rootsy Americana. Two landmark stadium-folk albums in the early-'90s became multi-million sellers and clarion calls for incoming President Clinton's vision of a caring, sharing superpower. 'Out Of Time' spawned the mandolin-powered mega-hit 'Losing My Religion', dynamic and spare and haunted by secret wisdom. Then the pared-down 'Automatic For The People', all hushed piano and strings, fused the freewheeling country-rock homage 'Man On The Moon' with rueful, intimate, spine-tingling short stories like 'Nightswimming'. The stately, aching waltz 'Everybody Hurts' became an unofficial US national anthem in 1992. Stipe was iconic, intriguing, untouchable.

But then came – what? Over-exposure? Flimsy rebel credentials tamed by success? Retreat into wealth-cushioned playboy-liberal bohemianism? Just as the prosaic realpolitik of Clinton diluted REM's mildly left-leaning edge, so the death of Kurt Cobain pulled the alt.rock rug from under them. With their belated response to grunge, 1994's amped-up 'Monster', the Stipe brigade no longer looked elegantly out of time but slightly behind the times. Beneath Peter Buck's juddering power chords on the burly bruiser 'What's The Frequency, Kenneth?', a sense of rudderless repetition took hold.

A massive $80million contract renewal in 1996 and drummer Bill Berry's departure in 1997 further strained REM's image as the Last Indie Noblemen. And their output was becoming pleasantly inessential, from the opiated lullaby 'All The Way To Reno (You're Gonna Be A Star)' to the swooning waltz of 'Daysleeper'. By now they were firmly entrenched as official poster boys for Nick Hornby-reading, middle-youth suburbanites. Even people with the most conservative musical and political tastes bought REM by the bucketload.

'In Time' is inevitably a selective history, annoyingly so at times. There's no 'Near Wild Heaven', no 'Radio Song', and only those who snap up early copies with the patchy limited-edition bonus disc of B-sides and rarities will get an acoustic 'Pop Song '89' and a live version of 'Drive'. Most perverse of all is the glaring absence of 'Shiny Happy People', REM's biggest hit to date. The band dislike it, but hey, big deal. Get over it. Don't treat your listeners with indie-snob contempt.

Even the two new tunes are minor, déjà vu affairs. 'Bad Day' is a vigorous country-punk torrent of allegedly politicised spite, but it's characteristically vague and strongly reminiscent of the ancient 'It's The End Of The World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)'. Meanwhile, 'Animal' is bubblegum powerpop with twangsome retro guitars, more Monkees than Pixies.

Peter Buck's farcical outburst of mid-air yoghurt rage in 2001 shattered any remaining alt.rock godfather mystique that REM once possessed. Stipe's journey from America's Morrissey to Kurt's Big Brother to Thom Yorke's Oddball Uncle has been mostly taken in downward steps. Since 1988, pop has progressed in mighty leaps while REM have hardly moved. Radiohead and even U2 make far more radical, passionate and progressive records. But where is Stipe's legacy now beyond smug, humourless, whiney-voiced boho poseurs like Placebo or The Dandy Warhols?

'In Time' is a two-thirds decent record, but also a revealing overview of a once vital group in mid-life stagnation. They should have called it 'Losing My Direction'. ***Stephen Dalton***

PAST FORM

Green (1988) Warners
Major label debut that rocketed bubblegum punk-pop and spiky, quirky, cerebral rusticism to double-platinum status. (9)

Out Of Time (1991) Warners
REM's first transatlantic chart-topper flirted with rap, folk and pure pop, spawning the mega-hits 'Shiny Happy People' and 'Losing My Religion'. (8)

Automatic For The People (1992) Warners
Their impeccably crafted bestseller, mapping the melancholy depths of Generation X with flickering monochrome laments and the evergreen empathy anthem 'Everybody Hurts'. (10)

Roll with it: them Duke boys (and girl)

NEW GANG IN TOWN

The Duke Spirit
Roll, Spirit, Roll City Rockers 7

Move over, Raveonettes – London sleaze-rockers unleash an electrifying debut

The Duke Spirit are shameless thieves. This mini-album is barely 21 minutes long, yet the Londoners have still found time to rifle through the pockets of The Velvet Underground, Mazzy Star and PJ Harvey (to name just three) in search of the ultimate rock'n'roll fix. People have served a month in Wandsworth clink for lesser crimes but, in the band's defence, there's not a nabbed riff here that doesn't feel as alive as the day it was first dragged through an amp.

You see, singer Leila Moss and her band aren't simply *stealing* from their heroes. They're fucking the living hell out of them until they're left breathless and panting in a heap of screaming guitar feedback. Take opener 'Red Weather' – it starts with a bassline so menacing even Carlos Interpol would need to change the bedsheets, before exploding into a lustful wail that makes Karen O sound like Ann Widdecombe. Just *gulp* at the way Moss contorts the line *"Like a wild animal growls!"* around her lungs until it emerges as a passion-crazed squeal that should only ever be heard post-watershed.

There's nothing *quite* as unholy as that lurking anywhere else on this record – it's very much still finding its feet – but there's enough to ensure your ears get suitably seduced. 'Salt The Stings' sounds like Mazzy Star being whipped into submission with a tambourine; 'Drinking You In' is a filthy scream that forces an electric sanding device through The Kills' brain stems.

By the time everything crumbles under the noise of what appears to be PJ Harvey raiding the Desert Sessions' opium cupboard ('Nine & Scramble') it's clear that The Duke Spirit have made an unpolished yet frequently thrilling debut: raw, wired and bursting with enough sexual energy to power Manhattan.

It places them alongside a growing line of incredible female-fronted rock'n'roll bands (The Kills, The Raveonettes, The Concretes) who know exactly whose back catalogues contain the most mind-altering rock'n'roll.

But best of all, it leaves you with a suggestive wink, teasing you with the thought of what they could *really* do given more space. Sometimes, thieving really is believing. ***Tim Jonze***

LFI/MICHAEL PUTLAND

MUSIC DVD ROUND-UP

Pete Cashmore cuddles dinosaurs for your pleasure

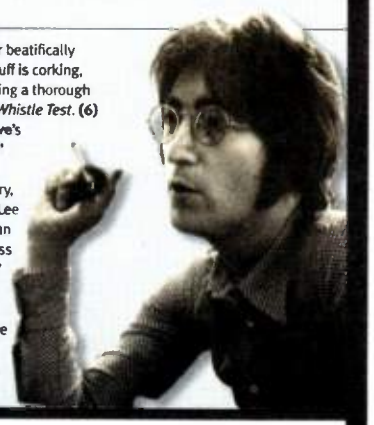
An evening of dinosaur DVDs? Yes please – *Jurassic Park* is the nuts. Sadly, tonight I'm getting the hoary old rock kind. Bugger. And they don't come any more hoary, old or rock than **Rush**, whose **'Live In Rio' (Universal)** comes with one of the most painful front covers ever – it has a dragon on it – and is stuffed with hours of horrifically overwrought virtuosity. The one Rush song I know, 'The Spirit Of Radio', lasts longer here than my entire career. **(2)**

Better, in the sense that a cough is better than typhoid, are **The Allman Brothers Band**, who were the Kings Of Leon before the Kings Of Leon were born. The Allmans offer a more basic brand of southern-fried (whatever that means) blues-rock and improbable beards. At various points during **'Live At The Beacon Theatre'** (BMG) the grizzled troupe stumble, almost certainly by mistake, upon moments of burnished majesty. But there's lots of blues jamming. We fought wars to prevent that. **(4)**

'Later... Giants' (Warner) is a constellation of greats from Jools Holland's BBC2 smugfest and is as variable in quality as my mum's custard. Some – Johnny Cash, Leonard Cohen, Al Green and a patently bonkers Bo Diddley – are great. Others – Page & Plant, Lou Reed – seem hell-bent on making themselves look crap. And Georgie Fame, a great? Even my mum knows who he is – and she can't even obtain consistency in her custard. **(5)**

On the subject of inconsistency, here's **John Lennon** with his stuffed-to-bloated **'Lennon Legend'** (Sony). A lot of it is new videos, and they are arse right down to the last pixel, all grainy 'John and Yoko wander beatifically hand-in-hand'. But the live stuff is corking, especially 'Stand By Me' getting a thorough rolling-over on *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. **(6)**

Best without a doubt is **Love's 'Forever Changes In Concert'** (Snapper Music). Shot at the London Festival Hall in January, age has not withered Arthur Lee and no amount of wrinkles can detract from the top-notchness of tracks like 'Alone Again Or' and 'The Red Telephone'. An interview with Arthur also enables us all to acknowledge that they don't make nutso psychedelic troubadours like they used to. **(8)**



The Boggs
Stitches City Rockers 6

Mad NY folkers

What the fuck is that? Is it the Kodo Drummers? Captain Beefheart? An Appalachian folk band on PCP? No, it's 'Down Below', the bewildering opening salvo from The Boggs' second long-player. Chaotic, fraying, pile-driving, this Brooklyn trio play traditional American blues, country and folk music, but with the frustrated, deranged energy of CBGBs punks. Think: a much more avant-garde Pogues, a young, uptight Echo And The Bunnymen smashing up dusty shellac 78s, Squarepusher unplugged. There are moments of skew-whiff gentility, moments of transcendent vulnerability ('Why Don't We?', 'Late Along'), but the lingering impression is of spangled banjos, wayward tunings and spilling rhythms. 'Stitches' is hard listening. However, it's also thrilling and interesting and, while this is an uneven 36 minutes, threatens greatness. ***Tony Naylor***

Relaxed Muscle
A Heavy Nite With... Rough Trade 7

Cocker's alter ego releases album

During his relatively sane pop star years in Pulp, there must have been a portrait of Jarvis Cocker lurking in an attic somewhere whose grotesque face betrayed all his unmentionable urges and salacious fantasies. Relaxed Muscle is that portrait come to life, a furtive electrotrash side project now fully engorged to Frankenstein proportions. Featuring a thinly disguised Cocker and sometime Pulp guitarist Richard Hawley, the Muscle look like Fischerspooner after an eight-month glue bender, and sound like seminal Sheffield machine-punks Cabaret Voltaire jamming with tarty '70s glam veterans The Sweet. But peel away the Darkness-style irony and there are solid tunes galore here, from ace sleazecore trawls like 'Sexualised' to the demonic Suzi Quatro stomp of 'Beastmaster'. Surprisingly meaty. Take a bite. ***Stephen Dalton***

The Handsome Family
Singing Bones Loose 7

Goth's back. And this time it's wearing a Stetson

Interpol and The Raveonettes may have made the Dark Side fashionable again, but Brett and Rennie Sparks were making gloriously warped gothic-country records way before it was the hipster's choice. This sixth album stays well within stabbing distance of their tried-and-tested formula – Brett's voice is still as thick as bat's blood ('Far From Any Road') and Rennie's lyrics still sound like unhappy hour at a Nick Cave therapy session ('Bottomless Hole'). But whereas we can only enjoy the sound of a band who want to hack us to death and feast on our Gram Parsons LPs, The Handsome Family are offering few surprises here for those already desensitised to their ghostly tales. Then again, when a band sing about mountain cats dragging away your dry bones, perhaps it's best not to argue with them... ***Tim Jonze***

The Gin Palace
Kill-Grief Artrocker 8

Putting the 'ooh, that guitar's very loud' back in the blues

Bassists, get lobbying the Musicians' Union right now! Ever since The White Stripes it's been *de rigueur* for your local raggedy garage-blues band to boot out their hapless rhythm drone. London trio The Gin Palace are no exception: instead, though, they have a guitarist who sounds like Link Wray wrapped in barbed wire and a singer that looks like an angry Audrey Hepburn and sings like she's spitting teeth. Four strings or not, this is fearsome. ***Pat Long***

Isobel Campbell
Amorino — Snowstorm — 4

Grab your hairslides, it's Belle & Sebastian's former cellist!

Even before considering her past, Isobel Campbell provides plenty of ammunition for the unfriendly. Songs are called 'The Cat's Pyjamas' and 'Poor Butterfly', and a primary school art teacher would dismiss the cover as slightly infantile. Really, it's like taking pot shots at a tethered Bambi. Yet Campbell has collaborated with QOTSA's Mark Lanegan. Sadly that track – and his demonic growl – isn't included. Judging by what is, it was surely a clash of textures to rival sandpapering a kitten, because this features the inevitable jazzy instrumentals, candyfloss Gallic pop and fluttering '60s doodles. Can we mention twee now? ***Jim Alexander***

The BellRays
The Red, White & Black — Poptones — 7

Watch out The Jams – here comes another kicking

Not so much out of time as completely unaware the fourth dimension even exists, to say The BellRays are slightly retro is like suggesting Kings Of Leon need a quick shave. Strangely, it barely matters. With singer Lisa Kekaula weaving remarkable, ravaged vocals over their punk-soul-garage – think Stooges, MC5, Aretha – there's been absolutely no progress whatsoever from their last record. In fact, on a couple of clunky blues howlers, they even move backwards, yet again it hardly matters. Mostly throbbing, sensual and utterly disinterested in what you think, they come, they play, and the rest can take care of itself. ***Jim Alexander***

RZA
The Birth Of A Prince — Sanctuary — 7

Wu-Tang production prince's return

No surprise that Wu-Tang's RZA helped out on the soundtrack of *Kill Bill*. He and Quentin Tarantino have a lot in common: they both know their kung fu, and neither has done much since 1997. Back then, RZA's raw production ushered in a new East Coast hip-hop sound, and his Wu-Tang dynasty a succession of astonishing albums. Since then, the empire may have dwindled, but RZA's talent as displayed again here – nasal rhymes, scratchy, drum-heavy tracks – has not. On 'Fast Cars' (with Ghostface Killah, the Clan's most inspirational MC) he turns in some of his best work ever. Hip-hop's game has long changed, of course. It's to RZA's credit, however, he still plays by his own rules. ***John Robinson***

The Dirtbombs
Dangerous Magical Noise — In The Red — 8

Detroit fuzz legends with not-at-all-difficult third album

Mick Collins and Jim Diamond have dedicated themselves to the garage cause since before you were born, possibly, and it's only recently the world has started to give them due respect. If people don't jump all over the correctly labelled 'Dangerous Magical Noise', though, there's no hope for any of us. Fizzy, ecstatic guitar solos blasted through malfunctioning amps are crowbarred into the middle of deceptively simple pop. The Dirtbombs' plundering of history – '60s girl groups, prime Motown, the rage of early British punk – should never be confused with sucky reverence. Among buoyant party anthems and acidic love songs, they throw something like 'Stuck In Thee Garage' at you – screeching, sarcastic punk that's pissed and pissed off. Considering all the clueless biting their style at the moment, they've every right to be. ***Noel Gardner***

Various
Music Inspired By Scarface — Def Jam — 6

Say hello to my little friend...

In America first you get the money, then you get the power, then you get the hip-hop compilation to coincide with the 20th anniversary of your movie. I mean whodafuck are all these rappers, man? Notorious BIG's 'Ten Crack Commandments'? Jay-Z's 'Streets Is Watching'? Mobb Deep and Nas? They sound good but they're all fockin' cock-a-roaches. They should get their own fockin' compilations. I'm Tony Montana, man – I used to be the fockin' biggest coke dealer in America – and now I'm writing for *NME* for a cent a word. Fock. ***Tony Montana***

Zinc
Faster — Polydor — 5

Breakbeat vet displays need for speed

As the man behind Ganja Kru's 1995 bass landmark 'Super Sharp Shooter', Zinc could comfortably get away with resting on his laurels and flogging the odd cut of ragga breakbeat to the jungle-for-lifers every couple of years. For his debut album proper, however, conceptual progression appears to be the watchword. It kicks off at moody trip-hop tempo with the title track, skipping through airy chambers of mid-paced soul, and only building into full-tilt drum'n'bass towards the close. Ingenious concept, old jungle dude. Ironically, without any ebb moments, 'Faster' flows uncomfortably, and with only a couple of real stand-outs – see 'People', starring Reprazent's Dynamite MC – perhaps isn't an ideal banner for the drum'n'bass renaissance. ***Louis Pattison***

Ben & Jason
Goodbye — Setanta — 8

The demise of singer-songwriting's best kept secret

They say that only love can break your heart, but Ben & Jason have had a good stab at it too. From their debut 'Hello' to this, their final album, there has been something beautifully sinister about the life and death of love as seen by B&J, so be warned that lurking amid epic string-laden melodies and Buckley-esque vocals lies the hint of intricate pins in a voodoo doll. From '$10 miracle', which uses razor-sharp teeth to cheapen a discarded relationship, to the desperately sad 'Window In/Window Out', 'Goodbye' is a beautiful album to keep secretly under your pillow. Pete'n'Carl may finally be reunited, but with the end of Ben & Jason, something new has just gone wrong with the world. ***Cat Goodwin***

Brand New
Deja Entendu — Triple Crown — 7

Long Island punkers' snarly second

What do you call the middle ground between emo and extremo? Extro? If so, congratulations to Brand New, this week's pioneers of new realms of rock semiotics. In fact, the second album from the Long Island quartet burrows further into depth and darkness than their perky debut 'Your Favourite Weapon'. 'Deja Entendu' wears its radio riffs on its sleeve ('The Quiet Things That No-One Knows') but hides a dark and scabrous heart. And it's always reassuring that the balls-out poppy highlight of any record ('I Will Play My Game Beneath The Spin Light') has a hookline as menacing as *"I make collect calls to home to tell them that I realise that everyone who lives will someday die and die alone"*. Pop music for miscreants who dream of one day getting better. ***Dan Martin***

ALSO OUT ON MONDAY

Mötley Crüe — Loud As Fuck — Universal — 6

Glam metal larks with the backcombed smackheads. Indeed, this was as loud as men from Los Angeles could get while dressing like Tina Turner.

2Pac — Nu Mixx Klazziks — Death Row — 4

Suge Knight raises beer money via dead chum. New mixes because he's flogged all the old ones. Merry Christmas!

Various — Chiller Cabinet — Classic FM — 7

All chiller no filler. DJ Shadow, Röyksopp. But hey! Where's my Samuel Barber Adagio For Strings?

The Jimi Hendrix Experience — Live At Berkeley — Universal — 8

Newly released live set with the 'Band Of Gypsys'-era band. But you don't spell it 'Foxey Lady', man, however stoned you are.

The Creatures — Ha! — Sioux — 7

Strangely skill stuff from Mr and Mrs Banshee. Like Can gone to the Far East. Ha! indeed.
John Robinson

Mötley Crüe: not all their royalties went on drugs. There was hairspray to buy

Jetplane Landing
Once Like A Spark — Smalltown America — 7

DIY frenzied extremo goodness

Northern Irish four-piece Jetplane Landing record their albums in their own garage, book their own tours, release all their music on their own label, and very possibly pulp the paper to make the CD booklet with their own blistered hands. This approach bears varied dividends: yes, they enjoy total creative freedom, but they also enjoy total penury, too. Still, not having some creatively bankrupt major label A&R telling them to write more songs that sound like The Darkness means that 'Once Like A Spark' can make a convincingly crunchy bid for the title of Number One UK Extremo Heroes 2003. ***Michael Lane***

Jonny Greenwood
Bodysong — Parlophone — 6

First solo Radiohead album. And you thought 'Kid A' was hard work...

When touring for 'Hail To The Thief' ends this year, chances are there won't be a new Radiohead album for quite some time. Rumours are that each band member will have a crack at a solo project. Jonny Greenwood is the first to try his hand. Last year he spent six months putting together the instrumental score for *Bodysong* – an arthouse film that tells the story of an archetypal human life using clips from the last century of film. Sounds difficult? It's not the half of it. But *Bodysong* the film has more in common with Radiohead than the music alone immediately suggests; the inevitability of death, violence and the perplexing nature of love are all key themes to both. The score itself is much like Jonny's contributions to Radiohead – a surreal mixture of lush strings, pumping guitar and electronic experiments. However, it's so intertwined with the film it accompanies, hearing one without the other is almost pointless. But once you've seen the movie it'll make perfect sense. ***Julian Marshall***

The AM
The AM — Storm — 5

Jeff Buckley's former backing band's debut

The history of rock is littered with mortgage-payment hungry robots who insist on going on after the prime mover has been snuffed out: The Doors, Sex Pistols, er, Genesis. However, The AM – fronted by former Buckley guitarist Michael Tighe – buck the trend with skewed and choppy geetar pop that manages the neat trick of referencing Adam And The Ants and XTC and still sound like Americana. Single 'If I Was The Sheriff' might pack a punch of a chorus that overshadows the rest of the record, but as clambers back from the wreckage go, The AM have remembered both their tunes and their dignity. ***Dan Martin***

NME ESSENTIAL BUYS

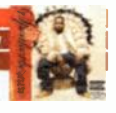
The pick of the last four weeks

The Strokes — Room On Fire — Rough Trade
"Sleek, sexy and thrilling"

The Distillers — Coral Fang — Sire
"Brody Dalle is fixing to conquer everything before her"

Funeral For A Friend — Casually Dressed And Deep In Conversation — Infectious
"Funeral For A Friend have crafted one fearsome debut"

OutKast — Speakerboxxx/The Love Below — Arista
"People will be exploring and partying to this for years"



REVIEWED NEXT WEEK RYAN ADAMS ROCK'N'ROLL PRIMAL SCREAM DIRTY HITS FORTHCOMING RELEASES NOVEMBER 10
COLDPLAY LIVE 2003 DVD/CD PINK TRY THIS NOVEMBER 17 THE BEATLES LET IT BE... NAKED RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS GREATEST HITS KYLIE MINOGUE BODY LANGUAGE
RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE LIVE AT THE OLYMPIC AUDITORIUM MICHAEL JACKSON NUMBER ONES NOVEMBER 24 NELLY FURTADO FOLKLORE

THE REVIEWS SINGLES

REVIEWED THIS WEEK BY IMRAN AHMED

All singles released Monday October 27

Eastern Lane: it's windy up in Berwick, eh?

SINGLE OF THE WEEK

Eastern Lane
Feed Your Addiction Rough Trade

The Brit Pack detonates its first thermo-rockular device

Murderers, paedophiles, brilliant rock bands – it's always the ones you wouldn't expect. How many times does it have to happen for us to learn? Keep tabs on the meek because one day they're gonna nail you right between the eyes.

Eastern Lane look meek. They look like they'd prefer to spend their Saturday afternoons moping around in the library digesting the classics, rather than down the park having a kick around. Or in the forest playing doctors and Christina Aguileras with girls.

'Feed Your Addiction' betrays any such preconceptions. You expect it to shuffle but it kicks, screams, wails and socks you right between the eyes. The first brilliant Brit Pack record personifies so much of what makes British music exciting right now – a record made for thruppence in the middle of nowhere (Berwick-Upon-Tweed is on the English/Scottish border) yet it's still as exciting and invigorating as anything on The White Stripes' 'Elephant' or the new Strokes album. And it's a record which nudges UK guitar music out of the hoary rawk rut it's floundered in since the nu-metal virus made everyone in Wolverhampton want to be Slipknot, into quirky, experimental and invigorating new rivulets.

'Feed Your Addiction' builds on their debut album 'Shades Of Black', smuggled out earlier this year to little fanfare. While it had moments of optimism and light it too often lived up to its macabre title (although it's worth seeking out for the majestic 'Holy Arms'). In contrast, 'Feed Your Addiction' is unrelenting. Fierce and swaggering, its Strokes-in-a-post-pub-fisticuff guitars and how-low-can-you-go? bassline is part-Television, part-Pixies yet unmistakably British. Add to that the bladder-burstingly urgent yelping of frontman Derek Meins and you have a world-beating Single Of The Week. And to think none of them are even 18 years old yet.

RUNNER UP

Chikinki
Assassinator 13 Island

Is this what the madman dreamt space-indie would be like?

Yes, you read right. Pronounced Chi-kink-ee, it's like motherchicker, pachakibasintard and nikigger, ie very close to, but not in the slightest bit offensive. Rising from the ashes of a nine-piece jazz-funk band (allegedly), musically these eclectic bleep'n'roll Bristolian nutjobs get very close to the bone, too. 'Assassinator 13''s bass rumbles along like an 18 wheeler with the axles loosened by Kieran from The Cooper Temple Clause. Casios blast off into space, Theremins are strangled in the background: it's dirrty but not in an Xtina way, more like working a 12-hour shift in a fish'n'chip shop with no air conditioning. God knows what it all means though...

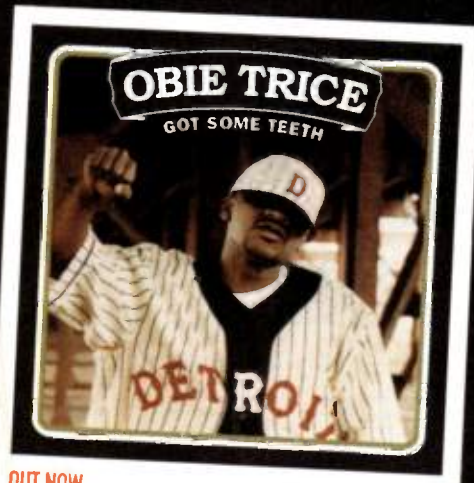
RUNNER UP

Scissor Sisters
Laura Polydor

Gay: the new punk

Everything is gay these days. Some of my best records are gay – Elton John's 'Are You Ready For Love', Junior Senior's 'Move Your Feet', Rufus Wainwright's 'Want One'. But few records this year have been as super queer as Scissor Sisters' 'Laura', which is like Bran Van 3000's 'Drinking In LA'. Only drunker. B-side 'Tits On The Radio' is great too and, in the week when Britney bared herself for the lads' mags, strangely poignant. You've seen those pictures, right? WHATTHEFUCK? It's like your childhood sweetheart (who'd never let you do anything) has started fucking the whole town. *(Um, is there something you'd like to share? – Ed)* Someone needs to sit her down and tell her straight, in the Sisters' falsetto, *"You can't see tits on the radio"*.

Virgin Singles Of The Week



OUT NOW

OBIE TRICE
Got Some Teeth

Obie's debut single Got Some Teeth is a light hearted tale about the perils of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle. But for all his cheery bravado it is clear that the new Eminem protégé takes his music seriously. CD features the video - watch out for the not-so-obvious cameo from Eminem himself.

CD & 12" £2.99 each

A single with so many samples, it's taken five years to clear! But now it's ready to roll, heading up the release of the Fatman's compilation album of the greatest party tunes ever. The CD's animated video of Fatman rocking New York ignites the party spirit.

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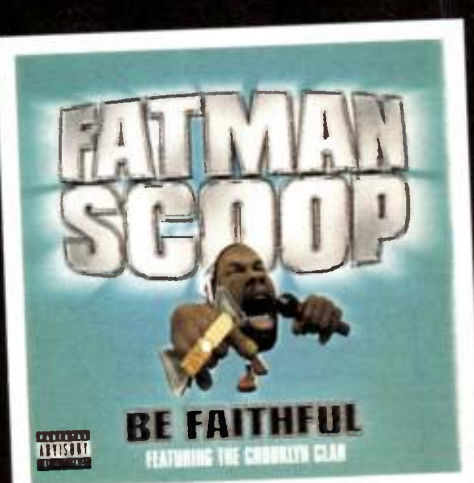

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Other releases this week...

Holly Valance has learned the Scissor Sisters' prescient lesson that while everyone can see everything in your video (and they did in the one that accompanied her 2002 Number One 'Kiss Kiss') this doesn't count for much on the wireless. So **'State Of Mind'** (London) – like so much femme-pop of the moment – is fluffy Fischerspooner, ie one almighty pop shrug. Still, at least the video sees Holly giving another girl the finger. And no, Madonna, you can't join in – we mean she's telling her to fuck off at a traffic light. Ahem.

Fact: **Ashanti** has never tried to get her knockers anywhere near a radio, although maybe if she did it might finally make her more interesting than MDF. I mean, how the fuck did she become one of the biggest pop stars in the world? Can you name one of her songs other than the ones she did in a beauty and the beast style with Ja Rule? Exactly. **'Rain On Me'** (Murder Inc) is like Whitney without the crack or Bobby Brown. Rubbish.

What Ashanti has in common with Michael Stipe is that they could both learn from Wayne Coyne and Mike Skinner. Wayne Coyne looks like a vampire wizard and sounds like one. Mike Skinner looks like the kind of bloke who should run a fruit stall and by shouting "Oi!" a lot during his records he sounds it too. You get the feeling that the most obvious way **REM** could turn around their ten-year slump is if they started to sound like they're fronted by the alien *Rocky Horror Show* freak that they plainly are.

'Bad Day' (Warners) is only different to every other REM comeback single ever in that it's obvious what it's about (the rise and rise of real-time 24/7 newzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz) and, ooof, it's a bit political. (*"Teflon whitewash presidency/ We're sick of being jerked around"*.) It's basically the version of 'It's The End Of The World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)' where the world ends with a whimper and – bottom line – Heart FM would boycott it for being too dull.

Unlike REM, **Jane's Addiction** did the right thing and called it a day in 1991. Only now they're back and, really, who gives a fuck? If you want to see Dave Navarro hang out with some fading drag queens just watch a video of him onstage with Christina Aguilera at the MTV Awards. **'True Nature'** (Parlophone) sounds like it was written during a jam session with Red Hot Chili Peppers' 'Give It Away' on repeat in the background. Sheesh.

Glasgow's **Stapleton**'s new single **'Chez Chef'** (Gravity DIP) is very emo and very good. It's a bit all over the place – clammy, New Order-y high hats, weaving and bobbing guitars, wussy breakdowns – but messy in the best way possible. That and it's co-produced by the best-named member of Hundred Reasons – step forward human tongue-twister Larry Hibbit.

But even our Larry is several years of playground kickings behind the **Living Things** in the amusing name stakes. They are three brothers called (snigger) Bosh, Eve and Lillian. (The latter two taking their name from their grandmothers.) Lillian was only 13 when he wrote his first song, 'Marijuana Orgy', but sadly their debut single doesn't fall into that category. **'The Blackout Generation EP'** (Loog) tries to roast you like a pair of Premiership footballers but fails, instead coming off like a whole lotta insipid new rock nonsense. Shame.

The Warlocks share the same wardrobe (black) and outlook on life (blacker) as Living Things but **'Baby Blue'** (City Rockers) is far more endearing, albeit in The Warlocks' own eyes-rolled-deep-in-the-back-of-the-skull way. *"I'm wasting my time with you/ My baby, baby blue"*, Bobby Warlock opines, as sitars prang pleasantly in the background. Good.

Now, why on earth **The Kills** are the logical band to review after The Warlocks I have no idea. Well, I do, it's just our lawyers would never let us print it. Anyway **'Pull A U'** (Domino) is the sexiest song off 'Keep On Your Mean Side'. Sexy in a grimy, pool-full-of-pig-swill kind of way.

DOWNLOAD OF THE WEEK

The Futureheads
A To B

Sunderland kooks The Futureheads follow up the stupendous 'First Day' with the can't-be-arsed-to-get-out-of-bed stutter pop of 'A To B'. It's two and a half headfucking jerkaround minutes that are closer to Buggles' 'Video Killed The Radio Star' than any of John Lennon's bed-in efforts – and it's all the mightier for it.

Death-defying extremo-ites **Thursday** are just plain confusing. One minute they're performing one of the worst gigs in this writer's memory, the next they're releasing did-you-see-the-gay-kiss-in-*Corrie* dramatic singles like **'Signals Over The Air'** (Mercury). Strong signals they are, but infuriatingly muddled. Gnaaaarrrrrr.

The Fierce Panda label release three records this week allowing us to stage our own indie Olympics. Gold goes to Leeds' **Sammyusa** for their Supergrass-ish slambuster **'Doorway Of A Dancehall'**. **Cabletar** claim silver for **'Wasting Time'** (and dedicate their award to Longview – who they apparently borrowed the song off) and the bronze to try-hard indie Mancs **The Rain Band** for their ploddingly ill-titled **'Fist Of Fury'**. Well done.

Confusion reigns over in **Elbow** world. It's a really good thing that Elbow are no longer trying really hard to be a pissant indie band and are now trying to be Spiritualized-lite. But indie chillout? Isn't **'Fugitive Motel'** (V2) not a million miles away from Everything But The Girl? But we (gulp) still like it. Just don't tell anyone, OK?

And finally, do you remember UK garage – no, the *other* garage. **Medasyn**'s **'The Battle'** (Casual London) is the best thing to happen to it since Dizzee Rascal. It's like the garage version of *X-Men*. An eight-minute rant featuring Frost P, Zuz Rock, Lady Sovereign and Shystie (the songstress from Dizzee's 'I Luv U') it's more exciting than balancing a 100-metre high pile of the new So Solid album over a pond filled with crocodiles and members of Jet. And features absolutely no tits near any radios whatsoever. Phew.

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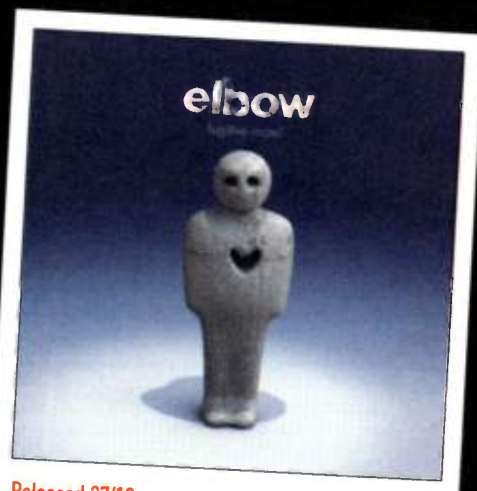

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DRUMMER REQUIRED

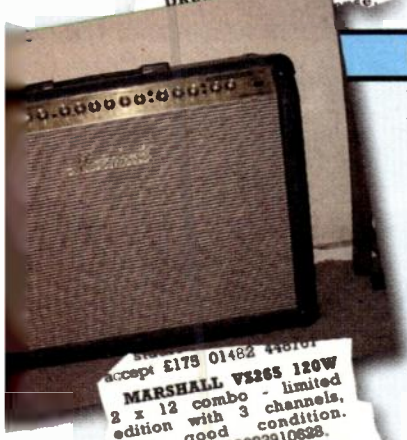
Musicians

Sodding Christ, why not set your sights high? This lot are looking for Keith Moon, the most brilliantly bonkers rock drummer of all time, Kenney Jones, hard-drinking tub-thumper for the Faces, or Reni, a man who provided the rhythm to an entire generation getting off its nut.

Now that's straightened out, if you fancy yourself as one of the greatest drummers in the history of western civilisation (or Nottingham at a push), give Richard from The Villas a call. They're a three-piece, not averse to a touch of Marc Bolan or The Doors, who can definitely see themselves up alongside the likes of Coldplay in the not-too-distant future.

They're after a sticksmith with a bit of personality – someone not afraid to drive a Rolls-Royce into a swimming pool or, in Reni's case, wear a floppy cricket hat. But if you're over 35, please don't act your age.

"We don't want an old-looking bastard," says Richard.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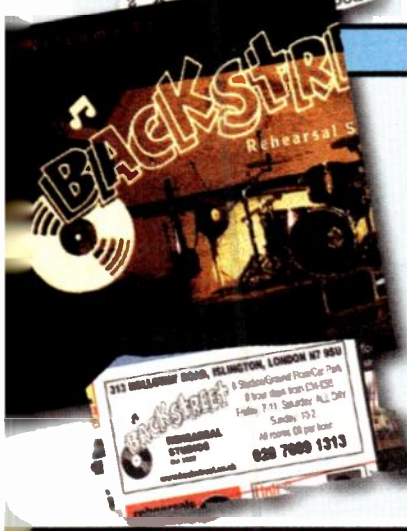

Studio

The Datsuns. The Hiss. Soledad Brothers. Emma Bunton. Spot the odd one out? Ha! There isn't one. Because they've all rehearsed at Backstreet, Islington's finest practice facility and all-round hotbed for rock'n'roll debauchery.

OK, that bit about the debauchery isn't exactly true, apart from Baby Spice's trail of smashed amps and Jack Daniel's bottles, but you could do far worse than honing your skills in one of north London's trendiest 'burbs. Pull yourself away from Islington's plethora of pubs and you'll find a music facility boasting eight fully equipped rehearsal rooms, including one with 24-channel mixing console, vocal monitors and drum fill, for a paltry six quid an hour.

We can't vouch for the smell of the place, especially as we're told that smoking is "compulsory", but if it's good enough for Muse and Coldplay, whose graffiti is still visible today, be grateful to follow in their footsteps.

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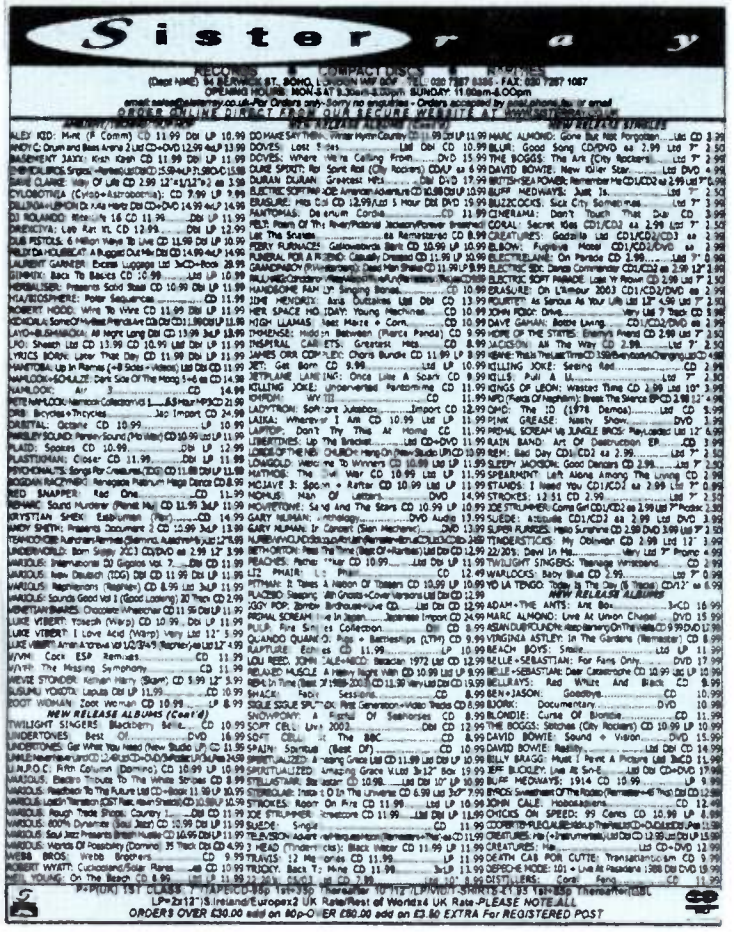
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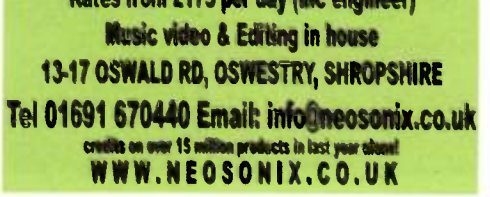
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THE AGENDA

ALL THE BEST STUFF FOR THE MUSIC FAN OVER THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

Radio

PICK OF THE WEEK

One Live In Brighton

Monday-Thursday, Radio 1

Franz Ferdinand: beside the seaside

ANDY WILLSHER/CARA BLOCH/IAN JENNINGS/PETROUINC.COM

Bored of being told by your parents about all those legendary festivals you missed out on? Woodstock? Jimi Hendrix at the Isle of Wight? Well, now we've got our own. It's in Brighton and it pisses all over those mod and rocker skirmishes of 40 years ago. Starring the Coopers, Jane's Addiction, Starsailor, Franz Ferdinand and many, many more, Radio 1 is setting up shop in the seaside party-city for this year's One Live event. And it's the best ever! With shows broadcast live from the city's top venues every day and night for a whole week, we've done you a massive favour and picked out the best bits!

FRIDAY

October 24

TV

STAY IN FOR

Later... With Jools Holland

12.35pm, BBC2

Josh Homme and PJ Harvey team up to perform the best bits of the fantastic new Desert Sessions album, recorded amid much madness in the middle of the Mojave earlier this year. Expect 'Crawl Home' and the funkadelia of 'I Wanna Make It Wit Chu'. Elsewhere there'll be Dizzee Rascal and Starsailor.

Friday Night With Jonathan Ross

10.35pm, BBC1

Primal Scream are in the studio. Hopefully they'll be performing new single 'Some Velvet Morning'. Hopefully Kate Moss will be there too.

Dirty Sanchez

11.45pm, Channel 4

Do we really need another *Jackass* rip-off? Welsh Valley boys playing naked paintball and snorting ash? But, of course.

Game

Grand Theft Auto Double Pack

Xbox/PS2, Rockstar Games

The revolutionary *Grand Theft Auto III* and its pimp-walkin', gun-toting, ultra-violent follow-up *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City* are now available as one blinding early Xmas pressie. The latter also features the coolest '80s revival soundtrack this side of School Disco.

SATURDAY

October 25

TV

CD:UK

3.20pm, ITV1

It's pop overload on *CD:UK* this week – but don't let that put you off! Kylie, Britney and Robbie all under one roof! Expect star-studded snogging, cat fights and girl-on-girl action. Oh, sorry, it's Kylie not Madonna!

The 100 Greatest Scary Moments (Part One)

9pm, Channel 4

It's Shriek Week on Channel 4, which means a load of bed-wetting classics over the next seven evenings. To kick things off is the first of a two-part countdown of the 100 scariest moments on the big and little screen. Includes interviews with *Twin Peaks*' Kyle MacLachlan, Robert Englund – aka Freddy Krueger – and, er, Richard from *Corrie*. The second part is shown tomorrow.

Radio

Keith Cameron

1pm, 6 Music

Legendary ex-*NME* scribe Keith Cameron sits in for Lammo, with a programme celebrating Rough Trade's 25th birthday. Figures from the seminal Brit indie label will be discussing The Smiths, The Fall, The Strokes and The Libertines among many others.

Bruce Dickinson Rock Show

9pm, 6 Music

The Land Rover-driving Iron Maiden frontman chats to The Cooper Temple Clause about growing up in a provincial Berkshire satellite town and always being teased by the big boys for having crap haircuts.

What's on NME.COM

Win a guitar signed by Suede NME.COM/COMPS

Check out our autumn ringtones special featuring The Strokes, The Darkness and The White Stripes NME.COM/SPECIALS

On this day in history

1973 Keith Richards is found guilty of possession of heroin, cannabis, Mandrax and a revolver at his Chelsea home. He is fined £205.

1980 New Order play their first gig with the full band line-up of Bernard Sumner, Peter Hook, Stephen Morris and Gillian Gilbert at The Squat in Manchester.

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"A CLASSIC 9/10" - **NME**

"*****" - **Q**

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INCLUDES: **'ARE YOU GONNA BE MY GIRL', 'TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT'** & **'ROLLOVER DJ'**

SUNDAY
October 26

TV
NME Chart Show
7pm, MTV2

In which established chart-toppers BRMC and The Distillers attempt to beat off fierce new videos from Primal Scream and The Cooper Temple Clause.

The Blair Witch Project
11.05pm, Channel 4

The spiritual offspring of the original version of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, the 'real' footage of three student film-makers setting off into the woods to uncover the truth behind local tales of a witch had many fooled when it was released in 1999. Shot in sinister half-light with some authentically dodgy camera work, it's still terrifying, even if we now know that it was just one big lark.

MONDAY
October 27

TV
SET THE VIDEO
The Wicker Man
1.05am, Channel 4

Edward Woodward discovers rum goings-on afoot on the Scottish offshore community of Summerisle.

DVD
SAVE UP
Lennon Legend: The Very Best Of John Lennon
Parlophone

Given that Yoko Ono's directed it, this tribute to her dead hubby gives one of the closest glimpses into his life yet. Regarding last week's *Agenda* debate about whether Yoko is nuts or not, *NME* news hack Julian Marshall had tea with her recently and can reveal she's actually very nice and has skin almost as good as his.

Single
Elbow 'Fugitive Motel'
V2

To think we always had Guy Garvey down as a miserable, in bed by midnight, "go on then, you twisted my arm... half a bitter, please" type. But no! In the same week he exposed himself as a prospective game show host (see page 12), he's also released his best single to date.

Radio
One Live: Steve Lamacq
8pm, Radio 1

Steve Lamacq kicks off the week's proceedings. Live from The Dome are Starsailor, The Electric Soft Parade and – with whispers of the next Coldplay – new boys on the block, Keane. Across the road, the Corn Exchange brings us The Music, Hope Of The States and The Blueskins.

TUESDAY
October 28

TV
Can't Take It With You
10pm, BBC2

In 1981 reggae legend Bob Marley died, leaving behind his wife Rita, 11 children to various mothers but no will. The uncovering of many fake documents later, it has been discovered that $10million is still left unaccounted for. What did Bob do with all the money? We've got our ideas and we don't need a BBC documentary to work them out!

Radio
One Live In Brighton
8pm, Radio 1

Things spice up in Brighton with sets from Sean Paul and Dizzee Rascal from The Dome. And there's sets from indie's finest Hot Hot Heat, Franz Ferdinand and The Ordinary Boys to bring you back down to Earth.

NME DAY
October 29

NME On sale today!
Born to be bad! Why The Distillers' Brody Dalle is punk's new high priestess. Plus a fannish inquisition with AC/DC, how Friendster can ruin your life and inside the mind of Dashboard Confessional.

Radio
One Live: Jo Whiley
10am, Radio 1

Jo Whiley's taking the train to Brighton this morning. If it's anything like our train journey into *NME* HQ this morning then chances are she'll turn up just in time for her show to finish at 1pm. If she does make it she'll be joined by Dashboard Confessional playing an acoustic set.

One Live: Zane Lowe
8pm, Radio 1

...and doing his bit for Brit-rock, Zane'll be bringing us Hundred Reasons, The Cooper Temple Clause and Funeral For A Friend live from The Dome. All the fun of the moshpit without the sweat, spilt beer or squeeze.

TV
Courtney Takes Over MTV2
11pm, MTV2

You must remember the time when Courtney was handed the reins of the New York MTV studios and told to do as she pleased for 24 live hours of broadcast? Well, in case you've forgotten, she invited Albert Hammond Jr and Fab Moretti around to snuggle up in her bed, made eyes at Ryan Adams, flashed her breasts and changed outfits after every ad break. The best bit is when the New York City cops show up...

THURSDAY
October 30

Book
SAVE UP
Rough Guide To Rock
Rough Guides

Impress your friends with your new-found knowledge of Canned Heat and the Meat Puppets with this near definitive, A-Z guide of rock'n'roll acts through the ages. How do we sound so worldly-wise about Saxon and the roots of math-rock each week? We read about them in books like this!

Radio
One Live: Zane Lowe
8pm, Radio 1

It's the one we've all been waiting for! Zane rounds off his Brighton correspondence with a live set from the one and only Jane's Addiction, while The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster do their best to out-freak Perry in the support slot.

See the video to 'Wasted Time' by Kings Of Leon NME.COM/VIDEO

Win tickets to see The Distillers on tour NME.COM/COMPS

Hear the Ambershades' new single '8th Day' NME.COM/AUDIO

See the ace *Nosferatu*-inspired video for The Coral's 'Secret Kiss' and win the hat from it NME.COM/VIDEO

Check out the rarities in the *NME* shop vault NME.COM/SPECIALS

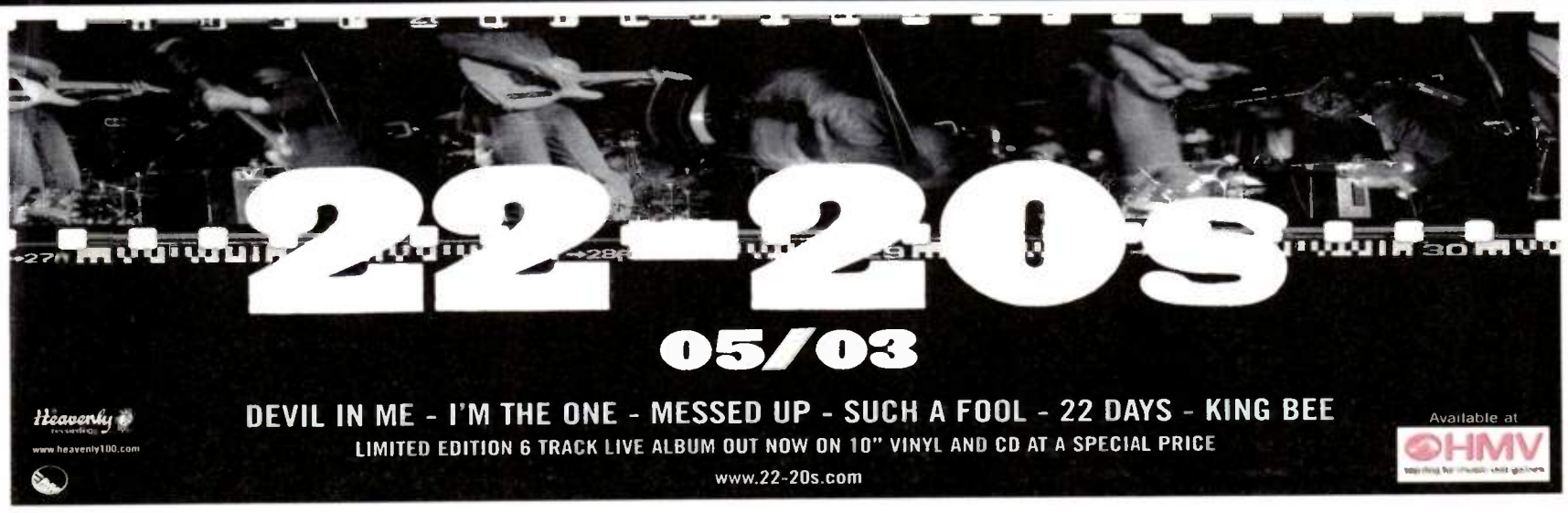
1965 The Queen awards The Beatles MBEs at Buckingham Palace.

1958 Duran Duran frontman Simon Le Bon (he was the Julian Casablancas of his day you know) is born in Bushey, Hertfordshire.

1982 Legendary music TV show *The Tube* is first aired.

1996 The Stone Roses split. "Having spent the last ten years of my life in the filthiest business in the universe, it's a pleasure to announce the end of The Stone Roses," says Ian Brown.

1988 Kurt Cobain smashes his first guitar.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WHY I LOVE... Iggy Pop

By Perry Farrell from Jane's Addiction

The Igster may have looked cool on the cover of *NME* (above, September 17, 1977) but not so much when hecklers got handy with the furniture

CHESTER SIMPSON/ED MILES

"In the early-'80s, maybe 1982, I was in a punk/goth band. At that time I was listening to bands like Joy Division, Siouxsie & The Banshees, The Cure and the Cocteau Twins. They were the staples. But it was a bit dreary and doomful. And a girlfriend of mine introduced me to Iggy Pop – not personally, but to his music. My girlfriend said, 'You've got to hear Iggy Pop because it's all about going wild.'

"I instantly identified with his sense of joy and pain. His music was always good mood music and it made him feel powerful. He is very simple in his poetry but he says a lot in few words. I think that is really impressive. And also he was so lovable, even though he was an outsider and a one-percenter. He was someone everybody could love.

"I met Iggy Pop... I went to a party in LA and here, at this party, on the floor, listening to my records was Iggy. I walked in, saw him and I didn't know how to feel. I just turned around and I ran away. I thought of leaving the house because it was so overwhelming. But then he came out and said, 'Hey man, is this your music? You guys are really great. Do you want to go on tour?' So I said, 'You'remyidol!', like an idiot. Ha! He just winked at me and smiled.

"So I toured with Iggy Pop. We did our second or third Jane's Addiction tour with Iggy. I remember sitting with him at a table and I was really missing my girlfriend. When you first go off on tour and you're really in love, you really miss your girlfriend. If I saw him today I'd say, 'Hey, do you remember the time I was crying about my girlfriend?'

"My favourite Iggy record is 'Fun House'. That'll always do it. I listen to a lot of music but my tastes have gone in a lot of different directions. There's a lot of popular music that I don't listen to. But I know almost every word of Iggy Pop. All of his songs. For some reason I digest them, because I trust them.

"In Iggy I see a man that never compromised. I love that about him. He shows that a man can be sexy at any age, uncompromising and eternally youthful. I don't think he's changed a bit."

He shows that a man can be sexy at any age, uncompromising and eternally youthful

Perry Farrell was talking to Julian Marshall

Jane's Addiction new single 'True Nature' is out on Monday. DVD documentary *Three Days* is released on November 3.

WHAT TO BUY

The Stooges – Fun House
Elektra 1970
A howling proto-punk firestorm. Jack White's favourite album ever; one listen and you'll know why.

Iggy & The Stooges – Raw Power CBS 1973
The Stooges after being rescued by David Bowie's management and new guitarist James Williamson. How fucking *loud* is this?

Iggy Pop – Lust For Life
Virgin 1977
It was already a classic before the title track turned up in *Trainspotting*. Check Iggy's scary smile on the cover.

NEXT WEEK'S NME

On sale Wednesday October 29

The Distillers
Brody Dalle talks drugs, fame, Josh Homme and not being the new Courtney Love

Free Stands single
Find out how to get your free limited edition single from Liverpool's newest export

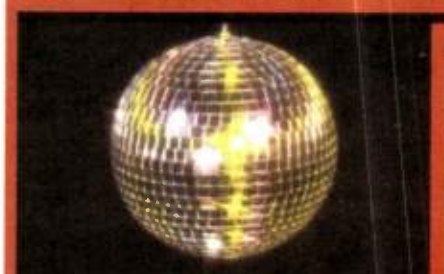

Photo icons: the '70s
The decadence, the glamour, the dragon-etched trousers – the icons of rock's glitteriest decade

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Oz kings of rock answer your questions including what they think of Nirvana and The Darkness

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